

The Jerusalem Post

WEATHER

City	High	Low
Jerusalem	24-32	18-26
Tel Aviv	26-34	20-28
Haifa	24-32	18-26
Beersheva	22-30	16-24
Dead Sea	20-28	14-22

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Budget cut decision tonight

Page 10

Bye-bye 'Beverly Hills 90210'

Arts & Entertainment, Page 8

Haredi and secular women join forces

Page 7

Index

Arts & Entertainment	8
Business	10
Crossword	15
Movies/TV	15
Opinion	6
Sports	13

Opposition wins no-confidence vote, 49-44

By LIAT COLLINS

The government received a slap in the face from the opposition yesterday when a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister carried by a vote of 49-44, with one abstention. Despite its seeming victory, however, the opposition could not muster the 61 votes needed to bring down the government.

The motion was filed by Labor, Meretz and Hadash over growing unemployment.

It was the second time this government has failed to muster enough votes to defeat a motion of no-confidence.

The vote was marked by the absence of the National Religious Party MKs, who decided to continue their boycott over a dispute concerning the appointment of religious court judges.

Shmuryahu Ben-Tzur, deputy coalition chairman, was the only NRP MK who voted, supporting the government. He said the Prime Minister's Office

was pressuring him to take part in the vote.

Likud MKs David Re'em, Binyamin Ze'ev Begin and Dan Meridor were noticeably absent.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi arrived too late to vote, but supported the government in a later no-confidence motion by Moledet. Moledet's motion over the violence in Hebron failed by 44 to 49, with nine abstentions.

Earlier yesterday, Prime Minister

Binyamin Netanyahu rejected the NRP's attempts to pressure him, saying: "We must act responsibly. This method of threatening to topple the government for every demand, even the most justified demand, is not acceptable. I cannot accept it. Anyone who wants to threaten to bring the government down, can go ahead and threaten."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said after the vote: "This is a government without a head and a head without a govern-

ment, and if it wasn't the government of the State of Israel, we'd be bursting with laughter."

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who liaises between the government and the Knesset, noted that "the coalition still has a large majority, but if the opposition wants to savor the moment, so be it."

Nissan Slomiansky (NRP) said the vote proved there is no coalition without his party.

Labor whip Ra'anah Cohen called on

the prime minister to resign and declare early elections.

"The government's loss [last night] proves that Netanyahu's coalition is disintegrating, and does not have faith in the prime minister or even in the existence of the government," Cohen said. "It is no coincidence that the Knesset voted no-confidence in the failed social policies of the Likud, which wastes money on the settlements while there is growing unemployment."

Barak holds 'emergency meeting' with King Hussein

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak flew to Amman yesterday for what was described as an "emergency meeting" with Jordan's King Hussein.

Hussein, who had met Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday, tele-

Barak takes the 'Bibi bypass', Page 16

phoned Barak that night and said he wanted to discuss Middle East issues with him before meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak later this week. Barak is to meet Arafat in Gaza on Thursday.

Hussein, who has made no secret of ignoring Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu lately, dispatched the royal helicopter to bring Barak to his palace. Barak flew by himself, with even his closest aides remaining at home.

"Perhaps the urgency of the visit is a reflection of the depth of King Hussein's concern, which is similar to the concern expressed by Mubarak at our meeting last week," Barak said on his return.

He said Hussein is deeply worried about the danger of armed conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as by the lack of confidence among the Arab states which have signed peace agreements with Israel.

Barak briefed his faction colleagues on his talk with Hussein, which in Jordan was described as "shrouded in secrecy."

"Hussein fears that a halt in the peace process will affect the internal affairs of Arab states which have signed peace treaties with Israel, such as Jordan and Egypt," Barak said.

Barak dismissed the possibility of criticism from Netanyahu over his meetings with world and Arab leaders. Last week Barak met Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"I don't need anyone's permission to continue contacting world leaders, whether as opposition leader or as one who has met them before. I update Netanyahu's office and the foreign minister's office as to my meetings, and will see to it that he is briefed personally if necessary," Barak said.

The Likud sharply criticized Barak in a statement yesterday, saying that he is "encouraging the Arab world to obtain further compromises from Israel."



Not behind his back

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon (left) chats with Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled yesterday, as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu walks by. Story, Page 16. (Shmuel Heller)

Levy to meet Arafat in Brussels

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy said last night he would meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Brussels today.

"We have things to talk about, but there isn't some sort of expectation for the sake of which I'm

travelling all the way to Belgium," he told Channel 2.

Arafat decided yesterday to attend the European Union foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels as an invited guest along with Levy. Arafat's trip was billed by Palestinian Radio and TV as a gesture to the peace process rather than an opportunity to

confer with the foreign minister.

The Levy-Arafat meeting is a direct outcome of EU peace envoy Miguel Moratinos's intensive diplomatic efforts here, during which he conferred with senior Israeli and Palestinian officials and urged them to resume the negotiations aborted four months ago.

Naveh to US on peace mission

By JAY BUSHINSKY and HELLER KUTTLER

In a new and possibly urgent effort to rescue the peace process from collapse under the weight of mutual recriminations and lack of trust, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is sending cabinet secretary Dan Naveh to Washington with new "bridging proposals" for presentation to US peace envoy Dennis Ross.

The prime minister told members of his Likud-Gesher-Tsomet Knesset faction that these ideas could close the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian negotiating positions.

Naveh has been serving as the Israeli negotiating team's coordinator, subject to guidelines handed down by Foreign Minister David Levy and approved by Netanyahu.

The Naveh mission coincides with indications the US is developing a new formula designed to bring the two sides back to the bargaining table after a four-month interruption.

This was confirmed in Washington by Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian Authority's minister for local affairs and former chief PA negotiator with Israel. He was quoted by the Associated Press as saying the US is preparing a new proposal to get the talks started again.

The US proposal reportedly would entail a temporary halt in construction of the Har Homa housing project on Jerusalem's southeastern outskirts, a mutual commitment to prevent street violence, a resumption of security cooperation, and acceleration of bilateral negotiations.

Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, has declared repeatedly that suspension of Har Homa construction is "not part of the Oslo Accords equation." He also rejected the idea of a work slowdown at the site.

"It's like being a little pregnant," he said, implying that since construction is under way it must proceed apace.

Sources here believe the gist of the new American idea is that negotiators could skip the volatile "further redeployment" issue - the next West Bank troop withdrawal due to take place by October - and



Dan Naveh, bound for DC (Isaac Harari)

move directly to the final-status phase. This presumably would be a gesture in Israel's favor.

As quid pro quo, the Israeli side would stop all settlement construction, including the Har Homa project, as a gesture to the Palestinians. To that extent the US proposal is similar to the EU formula being promoted by its peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos.

The prime minister said his basic idea, a speed-up of final-status negotiations, "is a good foundation for moving the peace talks forward. The deliberations which have begun in the cabinet about the principles inherent in a permanent arrangement can serve as a basis for advancing the peace process between the Palestinians and us."

However, Netanyahu said the forward movement can begin only when Israel sees a basic change in the PA's attitude toward security and after measures are taken against the Palestinian policemen who are suspected of terrorist activity against Israel.

"I want to see systematic action and an uprooting of these elements as well as action against the senior officers who are involved in this issue," he said.

Referring to the Palestinian Police's discovery of an arms cache and bomb factory in Beit Sahur near Bethlehem, the prime minister said he would like to see such operations on a continuous basis and not only as a result of local pressure following the arrest of the PA police suspects.

This action against the Islamic extremist Hamas organization, which reportedly stored the weapons and ammunition, "should be performed regularly or daily," Netanyahu went on, "in which case we would be impressed much more."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the administration was "very pleased" by Erekat's visit last week and looks forward to meeting Naveh today.

Naveh will be in Washington for just a few hours for his meeting with Ross, before flying back to Israel tonight.

Burns said the US has "never been shy about sharing ideas" with the parties and is trying to serve as an "effective mediator" between them.

A senior US official said the Palestinian Authority must take action against its security officials who are implicated in terrorist plans aimed at Israeli civilians if peace talks are to resume in a proper atmosphere.

"We've made it explicitly clear to the Palestinians, publicly and privately, that the highest priority has to be shutting down terrorism and violence," the official said. "It is just essential that everything has to be done to shut down this thing."

Burns said that in the administration, "no tears are being shed" over PA justice minister Freith Abu Medeen's resignation yesterday, and reiterated that the US had a "major disagreement" with him for encouraging the death penalty against Palestinian land dealers.

"I think Israelis have a legitimate right to know that the PA is not going to encourage political assassination against people who sell land to Israelis. We are pleased that Chairman Arafat came out very strongly [against it] and we assume that will now be the abiding position of the PA, and with the departure of the justice minister perhaps the prospect is more sure now," Burns said.

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Court awards Jewish children to Moslem father

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Four children whose Jewish mother embraced Islam, married a Moslem, and then went back to Judaism, have been returned to their father's care to be raised as

Moslems.

The High Court of Justice yesterday overturned a Beersheba rabbinical court ruling that the mother, who is now divorced, could raise the children as Jews.

According to Jewish law, children are Jewish if their mother is Jewish. Under Moslem religious law, a Moslem father is entitled to automatic custody of his children.

Justices Aharon Barak, Elihu Matza and Michael Heshin said the rabbinical court did not have

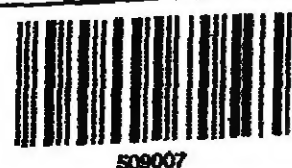
the authority to make a decision on the matter, since the father had not agreed that the case be decided before a Jewish religious court.

The couple had been married in 1980 in a Moslem ceremony after the woman converted to Islam together with her mother. The couple settled in eastern Jerusalem and raised their children according to Moslem tradition.

But two years ago, the marriage broke up and the woman decided to return to her Jewish roots. She

took the children with her.

The father, meanwhile, appealed to a Moslem religious court in Jerusalem, asking that his children be returned to him. At the same time, the mother asked the rabbinical court to rule that her children are Jewish and should be raised as such. The rabbinical court ruled in her favor. The father then turned to the High Court of Justice, which ruled yesterday that the children should be brought up as Moslems and returned to their father's custody.



NEWS

in brief

Palestinians arrest senior police officer

Palestinian security officials yesterday arrested Deputy Commander Jihad Masouni, head of a criminal detective unit in Nablus, who is accused by Israelis of ordering that shots be fired at a West Bank rabbi's car. Governor Mahmoud Aloul said two other officers are also under arrest, but he doubts the existence of a ring in the Palestinian Police dedicated to wrecking the peace process. "I think the Israeli authorities are exaggerating their claim and this story," he said.

Israel arrested three Palestinian Police officers last week, saying they were on their way to attack a settlement near Nablus, and a fourth officer later on suspicion of planning attacks near Tulkarm. *Reuters*

Four PA infiltrators caught

The IDF Spokesman said last night that Israeli troops captured four Palestinian infiltrators on Sunday night. The spokesman added that the Palestinians were attempting to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip when troops on a routine patrol apprehended them. The Palestinians are being questioned by the security services. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Bill would evade intifada reparations

The Knesset is to debate a bill next week, presented by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, which would define the intifada as a violent, organized struggle against Israeli citizens and military, thus limiting the culpability of Israel's armed forces, the Justice Ministry said yesterday. According to a 1952 law, the state is not responsible for damages caused by belligerent activities of the IDF. Since the outbreak of the intifada, more than 4,000 claims, amounting to hundreds of millions of shekels, have been lodged against the state. The proposed law would permit payment of compensation on humanitarian grounds. *Batsheva Tsor*

Ne'eman promises not to cut IDF salaries

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman met with top IDF commanders and defense officials yesterday to discuss a NIS 205 million budget cut, but promised not to touch the salaries of the IDF's career personnel. The defense establishment countered with a demand that its NIS 32 billion shekel budget be boosted by NIS 1.5 billion next year. The defense ministry received an additional NIS 300 million allocation in January to prepare for the threat of conflict with Syria.

Both sides agreed that further budget discussions would be held at the director-general level and "would be to the point and in good spirits." *Artie O'Sullivan*

Arafat sends envoy to Saddam Hussein

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat evidently is keeping his lines open to Iraq and especially to its President Saddam Hussein. His latest known overture to the Baghdad regime was made by PA Housing Minister Azem Ahmad, who delivered a personal letter from Arafat to Hussein.

In meetings in Baghdad with the Iraqi foreign minister and vice president, Ahmad promoted the PA's idea of an Arab summit conference to discuss the stalemate in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and dissatisfaction with the US's role in the peace process. *Jay Bushinsky*

Bridge contractors present report clearing them

Building contractors Baruch Karagula and Yehoshua Ben-Ezri, who constructed the bridge which collapsed at the Maccabiah's opening ceremony last Monday, yesterday presented the commission investigating the fatal accident with a report absolving them of blame. The report, prepared by the Bloch-Mendelson engineering firm, placed the blame squarely on engineer Micha Bar-Ilan. Meanwhile, Australian Maccabiah delegation head Louis Planus denied that he had cast blame on anyone for the accident, saying that he was waiting for the investigators to present its findings. *Ilim*

Palestinian sources: Jabali, Arafat behind planned Har Bracha assault

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian sources contended yesterday that Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, commander of the Palestinian Authority's police force, recently urged his subordinates in Ramallah and Gaza to escalate the level of violence against Israeli civilians and soldiers by using firearms against them.

The sources quoted Jabali as having said his instructions originated from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Jabali has been implicated in last week's arrest by Israeli troops of three Palestinian police officers on suspicion of being on a terrorist mission against Israeli settlers at

Har Bracha northeast of Nablus.

At a weekend meeting between the PA's top security figures, Jibril Rajoub and Mahmoud Dahlan, and Central Intelligence Agency personnel, American officials urged that Arafat dismiss Jabali immediately, the sources said.

They said there was anger and resentment among rank and file Palestinians over the arrest of Nablus-based Col. Jihad Massimi. Implying that Massimi was being used as a scapegoat, Palestinian critics of PA policy said he served under Jabali and took orders from him.

For similar reasons, they also objected to the arrest of Col. Munir Abush, deputy

police commander for the Tulkarm district. Arafat personally called for "limited action" against Israelis at a meeting with police officers in Nablus, the sources said.

The sources also cited dissension in the PA's legal community because of Arafat's alleged appointment of unqualified candidates for judicial posts. Justice Minister Freih Abu Medeen was particularly upset, they said, because of Arafat's reported failure to consult with him prior to selecting the 10 new judges.

This coincided with mild criticism of Arafat's choice of Gaza attorney Faiz Abu-Rahme, a veteran jurist whose career dates back to his defense of local Palestinians

tried for terrorist activities during the Israeli military administration, as attorney-general. He replaces Khalid al-Qidrah, who resigned following corruption charges in the PA.

The corruption issue was tackled by a special committee appointed by Arafat which submitted a 127-page report to him yesterday. Headed by Tayeb Abdel-Rahim, the PA's director-general of presidential affairs, the committee concluded that stringent reforms must be enacted and that some officials must be put on trial, Reuters said.

The inquiry was ordered by Arafat last month following an auditor's disclosure that PA administrative personnel had squandered \$326 million in public funds in 1996.

Arrested PA policemen were to discuss cooperation with Israel

By ARETH O'SULLIVAN

Two of the Palestinian Police officers suspected of planning attacks against Israelis had been scheduled to visit Israeli police in Judea and Samaria last week to discuss cooperation between the two forces.

The Israel Police had planned to invite a total of 14 senior Palestinian Police officers to their headquarters in Abu Dis near

Jerusalem, mainly for a get-acquainted meeting, but also to set some common goals, said Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan.

"The meeting was to have taken place last week, but was canceled due to the arrest of the three Palestinian policemen" on their way to carry out an attack on the settlement of Har Bracha, Sivan said. Army radio said two of the 14

Palestinians were Col. Jihad Massimi, a senior Nablus police officer, and Col. Munir Abush.

Abush served in the Tulkarm police, and was arrested by General Security Service agents last week on suspicion of ordering attacks. Massimi has reportedly been detained by the Palestinian Police for questioning.

Army Radio said Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and other

senior police commanders had agreed to pay a reciprocal visit at the invitation of Brig.-Gen. Ghazi Jabali, commander of the West Bank and Gaza police force, who is now accusing of masterminding attacks against Israel.

Sivan said that despite recent events, police from both sides are still in daily contact, and efforts are under way to set up a future meeting.

Bethlehem bomb factory 'biggest yet found'

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Bethlehem Police Commander Kamal Sheikh said yesterday that a bomb factory discovered in the village of Beit Sahur near Bethlehem on Sunday is the largest of its kind yet found.

At a hastily convened press conference, Sheikh told reporters: "We found over 30 kilos of TNT, hydrogen, chemical substances, timers and watches," adding that "only experts can prepare such explosives."

In addition, he said, some of the bombs had been packed inside plastic boxes, and were already attached to timers and detonators.

Palestinian police also found IDF uniforms, wigs, beards, makeup and other disguises, as well as cellular phones, skullcaps and prayer shawls. Channel 1 reported last night that the General Security Service informed the Palestinians about the bomb factory's existence a week ago.

According to Sheikh, the two-story house in Beit Sahur was being used by the Hamas movement.

"We have prevented explosions. We have prevented a massacre," he said. "The ones running the factory planned to destroy our agreement with the Israelis."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while commending the discovery, said that "after the grave activities committed by Palestinian Police - perhaps the most serious violation to date of the Oslo Agreement - such operations against Hamas should be constant. This will impress us far more."

According to Sheikh, police had watched the building for three days prior to the dawn raid. He added that there was a link between the factory and Hamas activist Issa Shouka, who died last week in Bethlehem when a bomb exploded prematurely.

"We found the same substances and electrical devices used in the bomb that killed Shouka," said Sheikh, adding that the owner of the house is being questioned, but has not been arrested. "We asked him who was renting the house," said Sheikh. Sheikh denied reports that several suspects had been arrested, saying that apart from the home owner, no one has been detained.

Reports in the media yesterday claimed the owner of the home - Mohammed Assaf, allegedly a Hamas activist and a member of Shouka's cell - had been arrested before the raid, and revealed the factory's whereabouts during his interrogation. Other reports claimed he was arrested after the raid, and yet others claimed that three Palestinians were arrested with him.



Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner), in striped shirt, surrounded by security men in court yesterday. (Pavel Volberg, Israel Sun)

Lerner remanded again, may post bail and move to house arrest

By RAINE MARCUS

Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner), the alleged Russian mafia kingpin suspected of the murder of a Russian banker, money laundering, an \$85 million fraud scam and other financial offenses, appeared in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for a further remand hearing yesterday. Judge Yeshiyahu Shnellor ruled that Lerner - already in custody for over two months - would stay in custody for a further seven days after the National Crime Squad said there had been a turning point in the investigation. After the seven-day remand, Judge Shnellor ordered Lerner placed under house arrest - after first depositing large sums of money.

Police are still trying to reach an agreement with a witness who is expected to testify against Lerner. Therefore Shnellor, who has already warned police that unless they present an indictment Lerner would be released, agreed to keep the latter in custody for a further week in order to give police the time needed. After that, ruled Shnellor, Lerner will be placed under house arrest. Bail will be set at NIS 2 million cash together with third-party collateral amounting to NIS 5 million. Judge Shnellor said he was certain that Lerner would have no problem raising the sums required.

Police opposed the decision to put Lerner under house arrest in another seven days, and said that in the light of new developments they may appeal the judge's decision and consolidate a partial indictment, thus enabling detectives to request a remand until the end of legal proceedings. Police are

afraid that, if freed, Lerner will flee the country, or interfere with witnesses and others involved in the affair.

Another bone of contention yesterday was the location of Lerner's house arrest. Lerner wishes to be placed under arrest at his Ashkelon villa, together with his family. But Judge Shnellor said he believed the detention should be at a hotel in the center of the country - at Lerner's expense. In any case, conditions of the house arrest include the confiscation of Lerner's passports and the disconnecting of his phones. He will only be allowed to contact his wife, father, daughter and lawyers.

Judge Shnellor will decide this morning where Lerner will be kept, and police are weighing up their appeal, in an attempt to keep the alleged mafia boss in custody.

Beit Jann residents prepare to defy NRA workers

By DAVID RUDGE

Residents of Beit Jann manned the barricades yesterday to prevent any representatives of the Nature Reserves Authority from entering the Druse village on the slopes of Mt. Meron.

The move was described by inhabitants of the Druse village as a precautionary measure designed to avert a flare-up of violence and to protect the NRA officials themselves.

Simultaneously, police increased their presence in the region, as well as that of NRA wardens and firemen, in case of any disturbances.

The moves followed the Supreme Court ruling on Sunday to close an illegally constructed road leading from Beit Jann to the nearby Druse village of Hurfeish.

The decision resulted in riots outside the court building on Sunday

as hundreds of Beit Jann residents brawled with police in protest against the ruling.

"Feelings are running very high in the wake of the court's decision," said Beit Jann local council chairman Yusuf Kaban.

"I am doing everything in my power to ensure calm and for that reason I met with the head of the northern region police and requested that there should be no provocation," Kaban said.

"The protest measures being taken by the council are within the framework of the law. We have declared an open-ended strike and we have closed all the access points to the village to all officials of the Nature Reserves Authority."

"This was done in order to avoid provocation and violence. Preventing them from entering will help avert the threat of violence

erupting and protect them, given the atmosphere in the village, over which I have no control."

Kaban said the council would submit plans to the local building and planning commission to approve the route from Beit Jann to Hurfeish.

He also called for a meeting with Environment Minister Rafael Eitan. Majid Kazamel, who built on the road to Hurfeish a monument to his son who was killed in the helicopter disaster in February, said the route itself had been in existence for hundreds of years, before the State and the establishment of the Mt. Meron nature preserve.

He maintained that the route had linked the ancient villages of Beit Jann and Hurfeish with Druse centers in Lebanon. Throughout history, he stressed, the Druse had preserved the natural aspect of the region.

The NRA said it was trying to arrange a compromise before implementation of the Supreme Court's decision to close the road at the beginning of next month.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, which petitioned against the road and the proposal to allow Druse with land rights to cultivate their land in the preserve, praised the Supreme Court ruling.

With deep sorrow we announce the sudden passing of our beloved mother and grandmother

ANNE (Hana) COOPER

The funeral will take place on
Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 4:00 p.m.
at the entrance to Har Hamenuhot Givat Shaul.
Shiva: at the house of the daughter Harriet
Kibbutz Sde Yoav, Tel. (07) 672-1274



The Executive and Worshippers of the
Jerusalem Great Synagogue
deeply mourn the sad passing of their Builder
Rabbi PHILIP H. WEINBERG
of Los Angeles
and extend their sincerest condolences
to Rose and the family.

With broken hearts we announce the passing of
our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother
Rabbi PHILIP WEINBERG
of Los Angeles, California

Wife: Rose Weinberg
Daughter: Ellen and Fred Stepan and children
Son: Joshua and Charlotte Weinberg
Sister: Esther and Max Leader
Brother: Charles and Ruth Weinberg
Brother: Henry and Vera Weinberg
Interment at Har Hamenuhot on Tuesday,
one and a half hours after the arrival of TWA flight 884.
Expected arrival at 3:20 p.m.
For particulars, call 02-625-6284 or 02-561-7756.
Shiva at Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza, apartment 723.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of
JEAN ROSENBAUM
on July 21, 1997 in Cincinnati, Ohio
Beloved wife of Professor Milton Rosenbaum
The family in Israel and abroad

The Jewish Community of Wilkes-Barre, PA
mourns the passing of
RABBI MEIR PERNIKOFF
The coffin will arrive today, July 22, 1997
with flight #008, due at 17:20, for burial
directly at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

MACCABIAH PARTICIPANTS -

Kol
HaKavod!

We salute your inner resources as well as your
athletic accomplishments.
May you continue to go from strength to strength.

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No food for strike-bound hospital patients

By JUDY SIEGEL

Patients at 11 government hospitals will be hit by a double punch today, as no food will be prepared in the kitchens and physicians hold a 24-hour strike.

The sanctions follow what was to have been a one-day warning strike by government hospital nurses, technicians, pharmacists, cleaners, and administrative workers, which will continue partially, even though it was supposed to end at 8 this morning. The sanctions are in protest against government violations of their contracts.

Doctors' union chief Dr. Elisha Bartov said physicians would hold workers' assemblies today to protest against Treasury-mandated cuts by hospital managements. Bartov added that "occupancy rates in the state hospitals have long ago reached the red line, and one can't make cuts in the system without harming patients."

As a result of the cuts, staff cafeterias have been closed, the use of security companies has been halted, and workers' payments such as car allowances and holiday gifts to staffers and pensioners have been cancelled.

The union chiefs said that if the budget problems continue, hospital directors will even stop supplying food to patients, distributing clean laundry, and admitting new dialysis and oncology patients.

As a protest against the shutdown of staff cafeterias, patients will go hungry unless their relatives or friends bring them food. Asked what patients who have no one to look out for them would do, a union spokesman said: "That's a problem."

The Health Ministry spokesman said that efforts would be made to provide food through caterers if the unions do not prevent these meals from getting to patients.

Tomorrow there will be various disruptions: at Sheba, Assaf Harofe, Bnai Zion, and Sieff hospitals, operating rooms, medical

technologists and radiology institutes will function on a reduced schedule. At Nahariya, Hillel Yoffe, and Ichilov, the wards, emergency rooms, and intensive care units will work on a Shabbat schedule, along with administrative workers, pharmacists, social workers, laundries, and storerooms. At Rambam, Wolfson, Poriya, and Barzilai hospitals, outpatient clinics and physiotherapists will not function, while labs, cleaning staffs, and technical services will operate on a Shabbat schedule.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza commented that, with all the understanding of the staffers' grievances, he is sorry they are carrying out a struggle on the backs of patients. His spokesman said that Matza "has and will do all he can to make the health system healthy again."

Kupat Holim Clalit announced yesterday that its eight hospitals will function normally during the government hospital strike.



Mount on the move

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert likes what he sees yesterday as he takes a long view of the city's new Har Homa neighborhood, accompanied by Interior Minister Eli Shuss. The mayor told the minister that infrastructure work is to be completed within four or five months, after which the Israel Lands Administration can begin marketing plots to contractors for the first 2,500 housing units. Approach roads and support walls have been built, site developer Yossi Shemtov told the visitors, and after the sewerage system is completed electrical lines will be installed.

(Bryan McBurney)

Bezeq staff threatens more sanctions

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq staffers, protesting over the sale of 12.5% of the company's shares to Merrill Lynch without their consent, are continuing their strike today and have threatened to intensify it. Their week-long sanctions have shut down information and repair services (except for emergencies) and closed Bezeq offices.

The Tel Aviv District Labor Court last week refused management's request to issue restraining orders against Bezeq workers.

The union argues that pension and compensation rights are jeopardized by the sale, which leaves only 12.5% of the company's shares available beyond the 51% state ownership remaining for the

time being. Union head Shlomo Kfir has demanded that the Merrill Lynch deal be cancelled, or that the money gained be used to compensate Bezeq staffers, who will be sent on early pension in an efficiency program.

Kfir said other large unions are expected to join the struggle, because they regard the shares sale as a violation of the rights of workers in government companies.

At a meeting of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, chairman MK Maxim Levy said he would meet with the prime minister over the Bezeq crisis. He called on the government to guarantee Bezeq workers' rights.

Meanwhile, despite their ongoing sanctions, Bezeq technicians

last night answered an emergency call to repair the telephone system at Ben-Gurion Airport, whose main switchboard and civilian lines had gone dead.

MKs discuss legislation against sexual exploitation of children

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

Four Knesset committees convened yesterday in joint session to hear the findings of a report on commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Deputy attorney-general Yehudit Karp told the Knesset's committees on labor and social affairs, education, aliyah and absorption, and the status of women that the government has drafted new legislation to deal with the growing phenomenon.

Children as young as 12 years old recently have fallen victim to commercial sexual exploitation in Israel, she said.

"This is no longer a marginal phenomenon and has to be dealt with," she said.

The proposed legislation would expand existing laws on prostitution to cover minors and would deal more stringently with pornography involving minors.

According to the report, more urgent steps have to be taken to reach out to minors in distress. It notes that it is the right of children, under the international charter on child rights, to be protected by society.

"Young girls and boys do not engage in prostitution. They are exploited and abused by adults," said Mike Nafali of ELEM, the association for youth in distress, one of the coauthors of the report.

Labor and Social Affairs Committee chairman MK Maxim Levy (Likud-Gesher) decried the lack of government funds and said a steering committee would be set up to examine the problem more closely.

The Education Ministry has managed to reduce the number of school dropouts by 50 percent, to 30,000, and this will help to reduce the number of youth in distress, said Education Committee head Emanuel Zissmann (Third Way).

More than 1,600 of the youth

involved in prostitution are new immigrants, said MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), who heads the absorption committee.

A special department should be set up to deal with immigrant youth in distress, said MK Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

The committees plan to reconvene in two months to see what progress has been made.

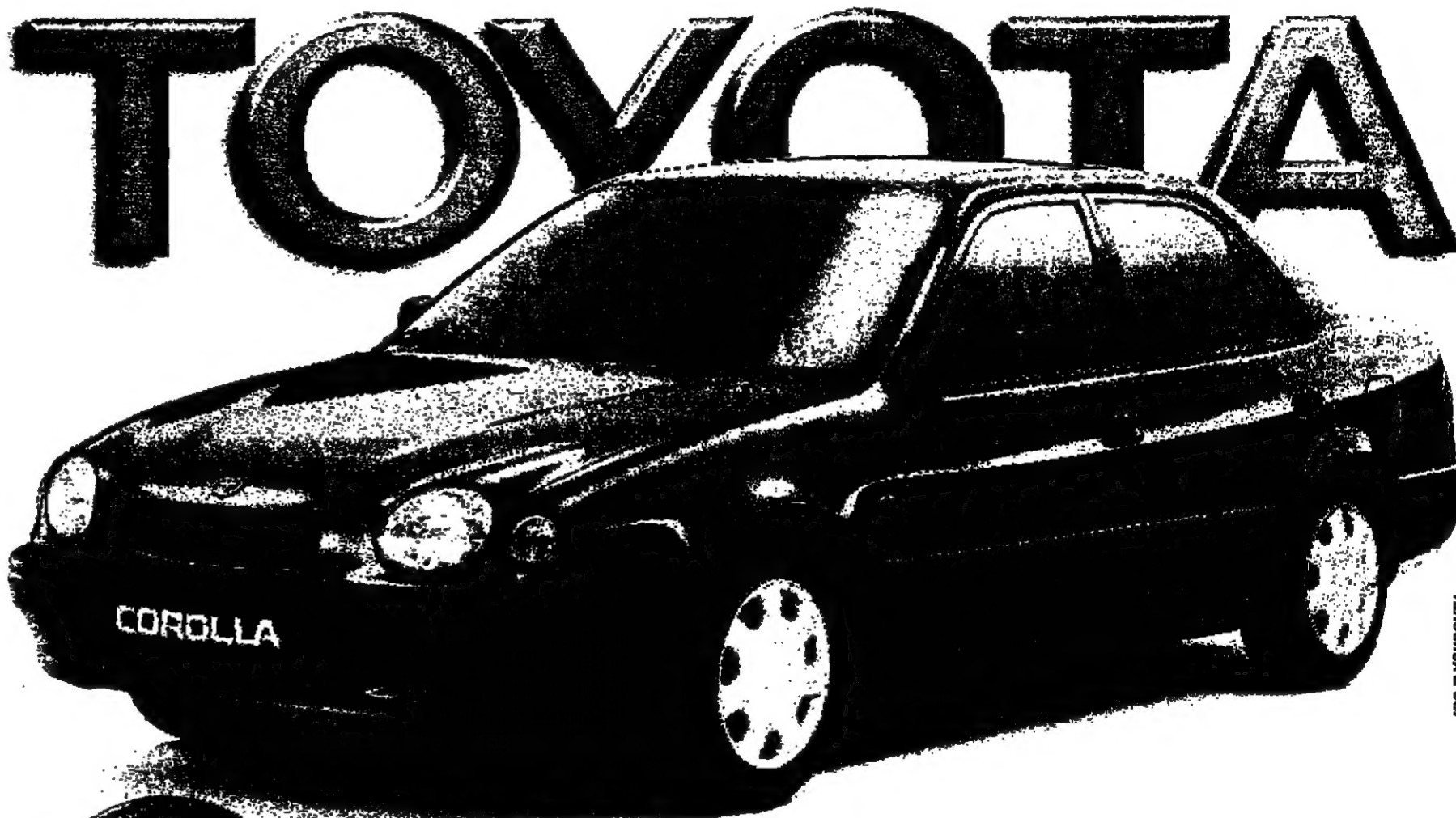
At a separate meeting of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai presented a plan to deal with the problem of 330,000 children at risk and some 200,000 battered women. A dramatic multimedia show on the scope of the problem was shown.

Yishai said that it would cost some NIS 500 million annually for the next three years to deal with the problem via a plan drawn up by ministry director-general Yigael Ben-Shalom.

"We're talking about a social time bomb which needs governmental initiative to defuse in time," Yishai said. "Against the background of the growing problems of the local authorities and the lack of thousands of places in day-care clubs and facilities, there is no choice but to allocate the necessary funding immediately."

According to the figures presented yesterday, 17 women were murdered by their partners in 1996, a total of 95 women since 1990; estimates are that one in seven women is battered, although only 18,000 complaints were filed with the police last year; and of the 120,000 children at immediate risk only a fifth are getting (partial) treatment. In 1995, 23.2% of all children in the country lived under the poverty line.

A pilot program in seven cities is waiting for approval from the Prime Minister's Office to go into effect to complement the plan drawn up in that office to combat domestic violence.



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NEWS

in brief

Lod squatters evicted

The 10 families that took over apartments in a Lod absorption center on Sunday were evicted yesterday afternoon by police, in cooperation with Jewish Agency security staff. Some of the squatters fought with police outside the center, but no injuries were reported. The squatters had taken over the flats, intended for immigrants due to arrive yesterday, by threatening that "blood would be spilled" if the absorption center's manager did not give them the keys.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Parents of Arad victims sue for compensation

The parents of two girls killed at the Arad Festival two years ago filed a compensation suit yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court against those involved in staging the festival. Arguing the organizers were criminally negligent, the parents of Na'ama Al-Kariv and Chen Yitzhak demanded NIS 500,000 plus \$5,000 in compensation from Arad Mayor Bezael Tabib, the Arad Municipality, the festival foundation, festival producers Yoseph and Ro'i Schwartz, the head of the company that sold tickets for the festival, and the Israel Police.

Itim

Two held for Pardess Katz murder

Early yesterday morning, police detained six people suspected of being involved in the murder of Moshe Agmi on Sunday. Police later released four of them.

Agmi, 22, of Pardess Katz, was gunned down near his home on Sunday evening.

Itim

Israeli dies in Indian bus crash

A still-unidentified Israeli man died in a traffic accident in northern India yesterday afternoon. Indian police have informed the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi that the Israeli had been traveling in a bus which overturned.

Itim

Academics gather in Jerusalem

Scholars, writers, artists, and performers from around the world will converge on Mt. Scopus next week when the 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies convenes at Hebrew University. Beginning July 29th, the congress will sponsor 1,200 lectures and events during its six-day span.

At a press conference yesterday, the organizers announced that this congress will focus on five general topics: the Bible; Jewish history; Jewish thought; the arts; and contemporary Jewish society. Additional lecture series will be presented on modern Yiddish, Russian, Arab, and Latin-American Jewish cultures.

Jonathan Tepperman

El Al gives miles to terminally ill children

El Al passengers have donated thousands of frequent-flyer miles to the Make a Wish Foundation, which tries to make it possible for terminally ill children to fulfill their dreams, following an agreement between the Frequent Flyers' Club and the foundation.

In addition, El Al announced that for every 400 miles donated by passengers, the company itself would donate an additional 100 miles.

So far, said El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman, enough miles have been given to take a family of four to the US. Kleiman said the most often expressed dreams are to meet a famous person, and after that, to visit Disney World.

Haim Shapiro

CORRECTION

A mistake occurred in the advert for the Maccabiah that appeared in yesterday's paper of July 21, 1997.

The March of the Delegations will take place on

Thursday, July 24, 1997

and not as published.

We apologize for any inconvenience.



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Wadi Kelt murder suspect stays behind bars

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Military prosecutors said yesterday that Ahmad Ali Ka'abneh, the 27-year-old Beduin suspected of murdering two Israeli women last April while they were hiking in Wadi Kelt, stabbed them 75 times and then tossed them off a cliff.

The Beit El Military Court yesterday extended Ka'abneh's remand until the end of his trial. Judge Maj. Arieh Noach also

rejected an appeal by Ka'abneh's defense lawyer to bar journalists from the trial.

At the remand hearing, Prosecutor Capt. Eli Braun described how Ka'abneh, a member of the A-Ram tribe, told his interrogators that on April 24 he murdered Hagit Zavitzky and Liat Kastiel, both 23 years old.

Ka'abneh told General Security Service interrogators that he saw the women swimming in the pools

of Wadi Kelt while he was grazing his flock of sheep, and killed them because he "hated Jews." He was arrested two days later.

Ka'abneh had no criminal record, is not suspected of belonging to any political movement, and is believed to have acted alone.

Braun said Ka'abneh waited for the women to start ascending the wadi toward Kfar Adumim, where Zavitzky lived, and then jumped them. He demanded they hand over

a bag containing what he thought was an Uzi submachine gun. When they refused, Braun said, Ka'abneh attacked them with his primitive shepherd's dagger.

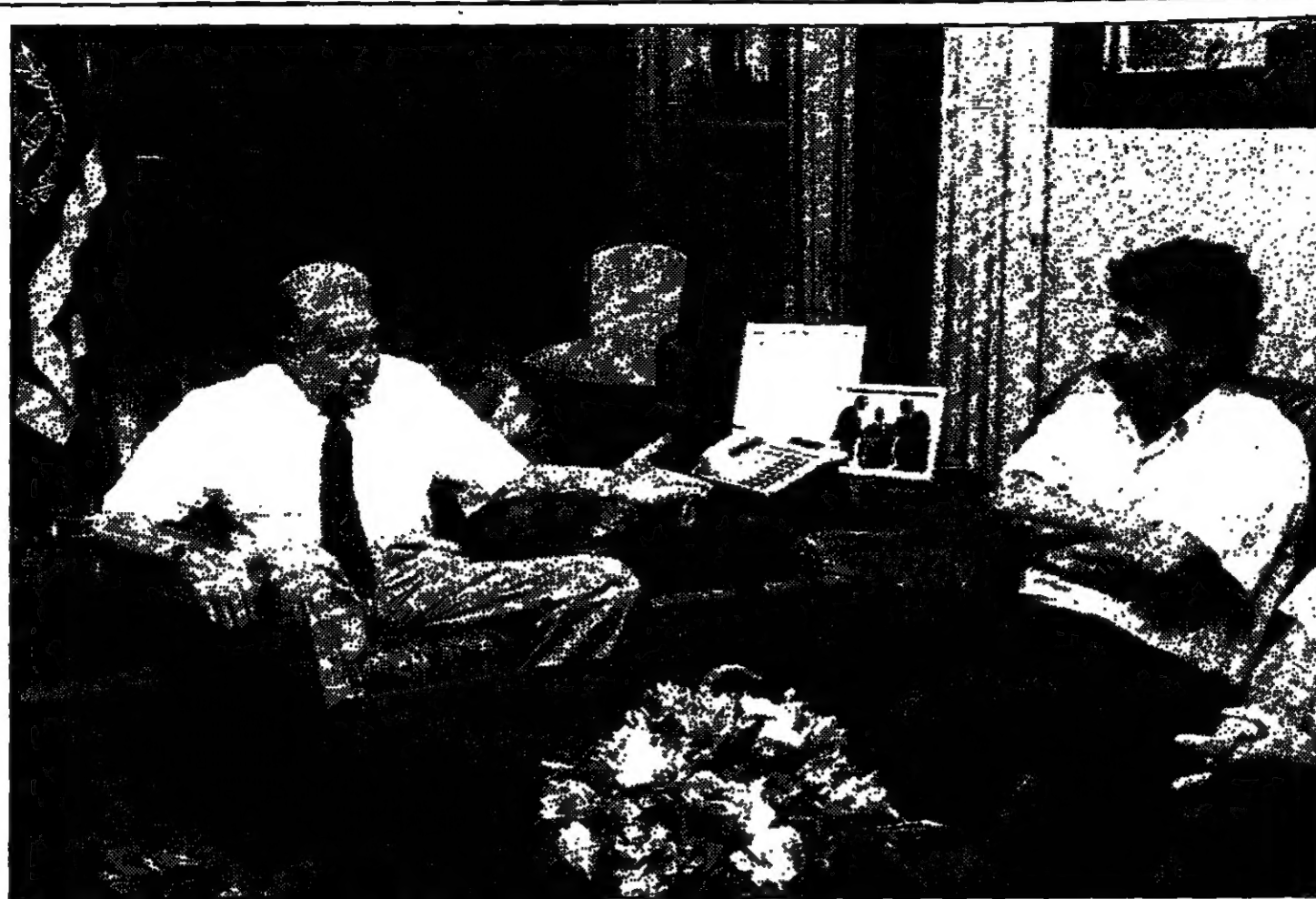
Ka'abneh later allegedly hid their clothes, camera and a watch in a cave and returned to his encampment at nightfall. He told his mother and brother of his deeds, and they helped him destroy evidence of the murder, Braun said.

Ka'abneh's mother was convicted

of destroying evidence, and is serving a three-month sentence. His brother is still in custody.

Yesterday was the first time that Ka'abneh was able to meet with his defense lawyer, who demanded that the media be barred from the courtroom, claiming that publishing details of the killings could be detrimental to his client's case.

Braun said he will ask the court to hand down two consecutive life sentences.



Presidential advice for the Histadrut

President Ezer Weizman (left) yesterday suggests to Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz ways to work toward lowering the number of foreign workers and replacing them with Israelis and Palestinians, during a meeting at Beit Hanassi.

TV show may have led to siblings' reunion

By JUDY SIEGEL

Complicated DNA tests on saliva samples from two people living in the North have shown very high probability that they are siblings who were parted as toddlers some 55 years ago at a train station in Poland. Shula Yardeni and Pessah Gelfarb, who live less than an hour's drive from each other in the North, will appear on Channel 1 at 8:55 tonight, along with the Hebrew University geneticist who conducted the tests.

Yardeni, who is now a grandmother living in Karmiel, appeared on Meni Pe'er's television program on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

"She said she didn't know anything about herself - not her real name or her parents' [names] - except that someone told her she was two years old when her mother

brought her to a train station and sent her off to Palestine," TV researcher Sapir Peretz said.

Gelfarb, a grandfather who lives at Kibbutz Messilot near Beit She'an, was watching the program and was struck by the likeness between Yardeni and his daughters.

"He said he remembered, at the age of three-and-a-half, being taken by his mother with his younger sister to a train station and returning home without the child."

They appeared together on Pe'er's next show, and program staffers contacted Dr. Hasan Khatib, a Hebrew University geneticist who specializes in examinations of genetic markers on chromosomes, to see if Gelfarb's intuitive feeling was authentic.

Khatib invited the two to his lab, where he took saliva samples and did complex searches for genetic markers.

"When I saw the results, I shook all over," he recalled. "It was such a human story. Their parents' names aren't even marked in their identity cards and they don't know exactly how old they are."

British probe talks of 'frozen' Holocaust funds

By DAVID HARRIS

Britain's government is examining claims that it refused to release money invested there during the Second World War.

British Embassy First Secretary Elizabeth Scholes spoke yesterday to the Knesset. Restitution of Jewish Property sub-committee, and said both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department of Trade and Industry are investigating the issue.

Sub-committee chairman Abraham Herschson (Likud) welcomed the move, but still asked that Foreign Minister David Levy write to his opposite number in Westminster, Robin Cook, asking for an early solution to the affair.

"I'm sure Mr. British Premier Tony Blair won't wait this issue hanging around," said Gideon Meir, Levy's adviser on world Jewish affairs.

Children of those with accounts in British banks told the committee of their parents' and grandparents' negative experiences in attempting to withdraw their funds. Part of the

problem was that the British government deemed them to be from "enemy countries" even though most had fled the Nazi or Fascist regimes.

"I don't understand why this has taken 50 years; the British should have compensated immediately," said Herschson.

Today, Israel is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the ship Exodus, he added, noting that Britain "is the same government that prevented people from returning to their own country to rebuild their lives."

However, Abraham Foxman (Shinui) said the British are a sympathetic people and should not be pushed too hard.

On the other hand Nissan Dahan (Shas) expressed disgust that the "mother of all democracies" was capable of such actions. He recommended that the subject be raised at all upcoming meetings between Israeli and British parliamentarians.

The sub-committee is to hold another meeting in the future, and Herschson has requested full British participation.

Ban holds up Jerusalem funeral

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Stories of bodies which have remained unburied because of doubts concerning the Jewish lineage of the deceased have become almost commonplace. Last week, a less common situation arose: a Jerusalem burial society refused to bury the body of a haredi man because a rabbinical court had excommunicated him.

The episode began four years ago, when the son of the deceased, involved in bitter divorce proceedings, disappeared. His family claimed the rabbinical court had imposed intolerable support payments on him, and insisted it did not know his whereabouts.

Last year, the family was astounded to see that the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court, comprised of dayanim Ezra Basri, Shlomo Fisher, and Nehemia Goldberg, had imposed a *herem* (ban) on the family. Posters in their Tel Aviv neighborhood advised all pious Jews to have no contact with family members, not to accept them as part of a minyan, or to call them up to the Torah.

The members of the family, who insisted that they were being unfairly harassed by the rabbinical court, largely ignored the ban. One family member had already taken the step - almost unheard of for a haredi person - of obtaining an injunction from the High Court of Justice, forbidding the rabbinical court from summoning him without prior notice, and then having him arrested when he failed to appear.

"My husband is a hassid, with a beard and payes, but he's so thankful that it's a democracy," said one relative who decided to make the matter public.

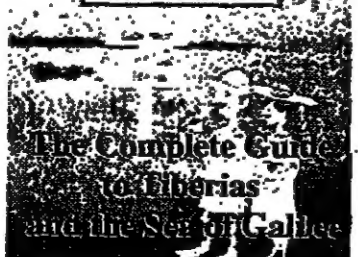
Last week, she said, the head of the family died. In keeping with haredi custom, the family wanted to bury him as soon as possible, but when they arrived at the Jerusalem Municipal Funeral Parlor, the wife of the missing son showed up with a note from the rabbinical court forbidding the society from washing the body or burying it.

The family was aghast. For four hours the body remained unburied, until one of the sons obtained a letter from a prominent Jerusalem rabbi, now an arbitrator in the divorce proceedings. The burial society agreed to bury the body, but the pain remained.

"My father-in-law was a great tzaddik, every penny he had he gave to widows and orphans. To leave his soul hanging in air for four hours is tragic," said a family member.

Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, director of the rabbinical courts, said he was proud of the rabbinical court's ruling. Ben-Dahan said it was true that the High Court had, six months ago, forbidden rabbinical courts from imposing a *herem* in civil cases, but not in divorce cases. According to Ben-Dahan, the rabbinical court had only allowed the burial after the family agreed to produce the missing son.

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Central Europe floods spread to German-Polish border

BERLIN (Reuters) - Emergency workers yesterday fought to repair dikes to prevent the River Oder, along Germany's border with Poland, from flooding thousands of homes.

Matthias Platzeck, environment minister to the eastern German state of Brandenburg, said plans were being made for possible evacuation of the region. The floods sweeping central Europe have claimed scores of lives in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Speaking on Berlin radio, Platzeck said around 350 leaks had to be monitored in dikes where water levels have reached record highs.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, due in the region to open a new steel rolling mill in the town of Eisenhuettenstadt, was to visit the town of Frankfurt on the Oder this afternoon to see the flood situation for himself.

About 20,000 people live in Germany's Oderbruch area on the Polish border - a low-lying area that would face flooding if the river broke its banks. But officials also fear flooding in other areas.

Thousands of rescue workers, fire fighters, border guards and soldiers are ready for action if the dikes break when another wave of water surges down the Oder tomorrow, bringing debris from the floods in Poland. In some places the river already has swollen to nearly three meters above normal.

Brandenburg interior minister Alwin Ziel said he expected water levels to remain high in the region for at least two weeks.

"The important question is whether the dikes can hold ... I have grave concerns about this, and that's why we have to take this so seriously," said Ziel, also speaking on the radio.

The nearby state of Lower Saxony said it was making an extra 800,000 sandbags available to Brandenburg to support the banks of the Oder.

Meanwhile, German reinsurer giant Munich Re estimated flood damage in Poland and the Czech Republic at DM1.3 billion.

Reports from the region indi-



Residents load valuables from their workshop onto a small boat yesterday in Eisenhuettenstadt, Germany, which is protected by a sandbag barricade from the rising flood waters of the Oder River.

cate insured losses of DM1.2 billion in the Czech Republic and DM 300 million in Poland," a company spokesman said.

"It is hard to get accurate figures because the privatized insurance industry is still relatively young in these areas, and the reporting systems are not well developed," the spokesman said.

He was not yet able to give figures for Slovakia, which also has been hit by the floods. He put economic losses in Austria at DM 300m, but was unable to say how much of that was insured.

The floods also have hit eastern parts of Germany, where most householders are covered for flood damage in standard household

policies, although contracts signed since 1990 do not offer flood cover as standard.

Munich RE is expected to face claims of between DM 20m. and DM 60m., he said.

A London-based loss adjuster said commercial firms in Poland could face heavy losses.

Robert Donnelly, a loss adjuster with Crawford THG who is in Warsaw to estimate damage losses, said: "We are aware of multi-million dollar losses for individual plants."

Several multinational companies have plants in the worst-hit areas of Poland, including the cities of Opole and Wroclaw.

"Both towns have had water lev-

els two meters higher than normal. There is a lack of food and water, no electricity and poor telephone lines," Donnelly said.

Last week, Poland's Hestia Insurance said it would make what may be the largest payment in its history to flood-hit electrode maker ZEW which was insured for 230m. zlotys.

The death toll in Poland has risen to 50 during two weeks of rain which has caused some of the worst floods this century. The death toll in the Czech Republic has gone above 40.

Czech insurer Ceska Pojistovna said it expects the flooding to cost it around 5b. crowns in claims.

Investigations continue on the extent of insurance coverage, but it is expected that multi-nationals will have Western European-style covers which include aspects such as business interruption as well as materials.

Many will be covered by Western European insurers and policies with Polish companies are likely to be reinsured in Western Europe or the London market.

Donnelly said most Polish insurers are large and capable organizations, but Simon Aubrey-Jones, an eastern Europe specialist at broker Willis Corroon, said it is possible some insurers could have insufficient reinsurance coverage.

Column One

Cambodia falls again

By Thomas O'Dwyer



Any historian of Rome could have warned the Cambodians about the folly of allowing two powerful rivals to run a country jointly. The trappings of state, even in a decrepit state like Cambodia, provide ample facilities for each "joint ruler" to carve out a personal power base, reward cronies, appoint lieutenants and muster supporters - until one gets strong enough to oust the other.

Welcome to Cambodia, immortalized in *The Killing Fields* - a tradition that sinister coup leader Hun Sen seems keen to honor.

Several million Cambodians have died since 1970 in endless war - including Pol Pot's reign of terror and extermination. Cambodia's infrastructure is shattered.

Ousted is Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who has served uneasily as co-prime minister with Hun Sen since 1993. That was when the United Nations proclaimed it was bringing "democracy at last" to the weary Cambodians.

After the most massive and expensive peacekeeping operation in history, the UN supervised the 1993 elections, which ushered in the shared premiership, and then left the Cambodians to make a mess of it all.

To no one's surprise, they have obliged. After all, when the United Nations declares something it has done to be a resounding success, it's time to look for cover.

Ironically, Hun Sen's move against his rival, was sparked by reports of the breakup of the notorious Khmer Rouge in the northern jungles, and the capture by one faction of the aging vampire Pol Pot.

Amid fears that defecting Khmer Rouge guerrillas were being brought into the capital, Hun Sen on July 5 moved swiftly against Ranariddh's troops and routed them. Ranariddh and most leaders of his royalist party are in exile.

In fine Cambodian tradition, Hun Sen has been getting on with touring and executing his opponents. At least 35 are reported to have been killed, and hundreds are imprisoned - including a group of around 400 in the central province of Kandal.

Hun Sen sanctions the abuse of his prisoners. He said on Friday: "Measures must be severely applied on those who intimidate others." His minions didn't require a high IQ to translate and apply this Orwellian gobbledygook.

For example, 30 soldiers captured on July 8 by Regiment 911, an elite unit trained by Indonesia (surprise surprise!), were taken to Kamboj, a military base west of Phnom Penh. Blindfolded and with hands tied behind their backs, they were herded into a small cell with no light or ventilation and forced to sleep upright.

Even before Versace's slaying, the FBI was receiving reports of Cusumano sightings from all corners of the country - boarding airplanes, at a laundry in Oklahoma City, in the audience at the Gerald Rivera show.

On Saturday, Miami Beach police said Cusumano may be attempting to elude authorities by shaving his body and dressing as a woman.

Besides being the prime suspect in Versace's death, Cusumano is wanted for the slayings of Miglin, a cemetery caretaker in New Jersey and two men in Minnesota - an ex-lover and a former friend.

Over the following 10 days, they were beaten with rods and barbed wire, and made to drink raw sewage. They were interrogated by means of metal clamp "lie detectors" on their fingers.

Pol Pot is gone, long live Hun Sen.

The rest of the world has two options in selecting an attitude to these new political crimes - "who cares" or "enough is enough."

Any guesses? For the moment, the United States, Australia, Germany and Japan have cut off aid to the wretched country. As usual, this crude if necessary instrument tends to carve up the already impoverished and dispossessed, rather than the corrupt coup-cats at the top.

If Hun Sen wants to abolish democracy, let democrats everywhere abandon him.

Better news is that hundreds of foreigners - including businessmen - have fled, and tourists have again crossed Cambodia off their "must see" lists.

If Hun Sen wants to abolish democracy, let democrats everywhere abandon him.

Hun Sen's next attempt to legitimize his coup is likely to come on Monday, when the 120-member National Assembly will be asked to rubber stamp his choice of a replacement for Ranariddh as co-premier. At least half the royalist members of parliament have fled. No one has asked the rest of the party to approve Hun Sen's nominee, Foreign Minister Ung Huot.

Hun Sen is trying to reassure the world by promising to replace Ranariddh and to honor the constitution. The world, of course has never heard that one before.

It is up to parliament now either to fight for democracy, or to go down fighting in order to expose Hun Sen's hypocrisy. If parliament even meets, it's getting off from a slippery starting block - this meeting already is three months overdue.

For the moment, the Association of South East Asian Nations has suspended the imminent admission of Cambodia. It's a welcome pause for thought, but no one should hold their breath while waiting for ASEAN to champion democracy.

Just ask the Burmese.

French TV mix-up sends porn film to Arab world

PARIS (Reuters) - A switching error caused a French channel to broadcast a hard-core pornographic film around the Arab world instead of a children's program, France's overseas television authority said yesterday.

The state-funded Canal France International apologized for the mistake, which resulted in all its programs being yanked off the air by the Arabsat satellite consortium after the broadcast at prime time on Saturday afternoon.

Civil War horse remains laid to rest

LEXINGTON, Virginia - Along with handfuls of dirt from the Civil War battlefields where he served, the cremated skeletal remains of Gen. Stonewall Jackson's unflappable war horse were buried in the Virginia Military Institute Parade Ground on Sunday, 111 years after the steed's death.

The bones of Little Sorrel had been languishing unheeded in a storeroom at the VMI Museum when, earlier this year, the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and VMI decided to inter the remains with full honors - just as Traveler, Gen. Robert E. Lee's horse, was ceremoniously buried a few hundred yards away on the campus of Washington and Lee University in 1971.

And so, in matters grave, Lexington no longer can be called a one-horse town.

Washington Post

FBI: Serial killer Cunanan may be bent on revenge

By TOM BAYLES

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) - As authorities followed hundreds of tips on the whereabouts of suspected serial killer Andrew Cunanan, the FBI has reportedly begun warning his acquaintances they may be his next targets.

Cunanan, a suspect in the slayings of fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men across the United States, may be working his way down a hit list of wealthy homosexuals and art patrons who he believes have crossed him, FBI spokeswoman Coleen Rowley said in Monday's *USA Today*.

The FBI is reviewing interviews with people who knew Cunanan. "We want to see if he talked about other people," Rowley said. "If we come across names, we would be remiss if we didn't convey that information to them." Authorities have said they believe Cunanan, who could be posing as a woman, is still in south Florida. The manhunt, however, is national.

More details have emerged about Cunanan's actions in the days before Versace's slaying on the steps of his South Beach villa last Tuesday. A Brazilian woman told authorities she has photos and video showing Cunanan and Versace together at the mansion during an informal July 13 gathering.

A friend of Cunanan's told the FBI that Cunanan had a crush on a member of Versace's entourage, *Time* magazine reported.

Authorities have tried to determine whether Cunanan and Versace knew each other. A day before the July 15 slaying, security cameras at the News Cafe recorded Cunanan about 30 minutes before Versace made his usual appearance to buy magazines, *Newsweek* reported. The cafe is within walking distance of Versace's home.

Before all of this, Cunanan had left a brazen trail across Miami Beach.

Two weeks ago, Cunanan walked into a pawnshop, used his real name and left a thumbprint as he pawned a gold coin from Lee Miglin, a Chicago developer Cunanan is

accused of killing in May. He also left a record of the hotel and room number where he stayed until the day before Versace's slaying.

The pawn shop is within sight of the Normandy Plaza Hotel, where employees said Cunanan stayed for two months before Versace's murder. Manager Roger Falin said Cunanan used an alias, flashed a French passport and went from paying daily to weekly to monthly.

Even before Versace's slaying, the FBI was receiving reports of Cusumano sightings from all corners of the country - boarding airplanes, at a laundry in Oklahoma City, in the audience at the Gerald Rivera show.

On Saturday, Miami Beach police said Cunanan may be attempting to elude authorities by shaving his body and dressing as a woman.

Besides being the prime suspect in Versace's death, Cunanan is wanted for the slayings of Miglin, a cemetery caretaker in New Jersey and two men in Minnesota - an ex-lover and a former friend.

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THEATER REVIEW

A play on worlds

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Hillel Mittelpunkt competes only with Hanoch Levin as one of today's most prolific as well as pessimistic Hebrew playwright-directors.

His 26th play to date *Gan Eden Darom* ("South of Paradise"), now premiering at Beit Lessin, Tel Aviv, surpasses anything he has previously done.

His usual steamy, squalid slum milieus throbbing with the agonies, ecstasies, pathos and prides of damaged lives and derelict loves is here compounded with a present-day Ethiopian-Romanian-Russian-Sephardi-Ashkenazi mix that sizzles with cross-cultural frictions and friendships.

SOUTH OF PARADISE

By Hillel Mittelpunkt

A study of a stagnant southern town portrayed through the goings-on of the said Cafe Gan Eden and its habitués is developed in a novel, almost surreal structure of quick-change vignettes, monologues, confessions and other arresting dramatic devices. The play maintains its hold over the audience until the very end, which suffers somewhat from a lame denouement. This is about the only criticism that can be leveled at an otherwise deeply penetrating, realistic piece.

The quirks of a difficult dramatic concept crossed with so many

rocky relationships are competently and deftly handled in Mittelpunkt's direction. His text injects a nonstop infusion of local lingo and pithy street humor into the ongoing tenor of brutality and violence.

But above all, this production deserves to be seen for its eight outstanding performances. To assemble in one cast leading artists of the caliber of Aharon Almog (consummate as Dolphy, the darkly tragic, rueful Romanian), Gedalia Besser (his Odessa, the pedantic Russian, is yet another example of his elegant and exquisite acting), and Mati Seri (who, as Ruby, a small-time Pop-pusher, gives one of his most dynamic, deeply-felt character roles to date) is in itself a colossal feat.

The best and most unexpected performance comes from the hitherto unknown young newcomer Udi Gil, a "natural" in the role of Asher, the desperate, delinquent son. He invests a demanding part with a fine balance of poignancy and crude passion.

Ada Lev's Viva, his tempestuous, temperamental Mum, is delightful if deeply disturbing. Asi Levy's tough single-mother taxi-driver Jackie, is another spunky, refreshing study. Sharona, a demented disco-dancer (alas, in the text the role loses its vibrancy towards the end), is realized by Daphna Rechter with the right degree of frantic flamboyance and eye-catching allure. The Ethiopian waitress, a gentle, hovering presence throughout, is played by Tammy Akalia with unassuming charm.



The relationship between David (Brian Austin Green, above) and Donna is about to change.

'90210' trauma

By DANIEL J. CHALFEN

Tonight's episode of *Beverly Hills 90210* (8:55, Channel 3) was cited by many US TV critics as the "episode that will change American thinking" when it was aired there almost two months ago. In this, the last episode in the current — and most recent — series, innocent angelic Donna Martin (played by Tori Spelling, daughter of producer Aaron Spelling) loses her virginity to long-term, Jewish boyfriend David Silver (Brian Austin Green).

It is the end of their college years, they are set to graduate, and Donna has decided that she is ready to take her relationship with David that one step further. She has seen her roommate Kelly's recent unwanted pregnancy and then miscarriage, she has been jealous of the after-dark hours other couples spend with each

other, she has brushed with Valerie's promiscuity and Steve and Clare's intensely tactile relationship, and has now decided she is ready to lose her virginity.

But over the years, through which Donna has turned down many sexual propositions on grounds of morality and Christian ethic, she has developed a following of fans, many of whom took vows of celibacy outside of marriage as a consequence. This concluding episode therefore came as a slap in the face for the anti-sex-before-marriage movement which has been snapping up teenagers in schools and colleges across the US in recent years. Psychologists reported a considerable amount of patients, teenagers and some in their early 20s, who were traumatized by the episode.

"They had created for themselves a hero, based their lifestyles on her, only to have their illusions

shattered," said a New York-born Israeli psychologist, "but it should not happen here, where *Beverly Hills* itself has had less social impact and where value systems are less determined by TV heroes than in the US."

With the conclusion of this series, debate about whether we will ever again see the *Beverly Hills* cast in these roles is rife. There is speculation that an eighth series, *Beverly Hills, the Married Years*, is being planned. Jason Priestly, Brandon Walsh in the series, who is now one of the producers as well as an actor, is very keen to return. He has, however, stated that he would only do so if he is billed as executive producer. Jennie Garth, Kelly Taylor in the series, has made it clear, however, that despite her current \$20,000 an episode payroll, she feels her *Beverly Hills* days are over and it is time to move on.

IN TUNE

By DAVID BRINN

Karl Wallinger under the moniker World Party is responsible for one of the best albums of the 1990s, as any of the few dozens of people who own it can attest.

EGYPTOLOGY

World Party (NMC)

LISA STANFIELD

Lisa Stanfield (Hed Arzi)

FURTHER

Geneva (NMC)

Goodbye Jumbo was chock full of clever, passionate pop with tinges of The Beatles, Sly & the Family Stone and Prince thrown

in for good measure. Wallinger, who originally played in The Waterboys back in the 1980s, holes himself up in his home studio and occasionally shares his muse with the rest of us.

Egyptology, his fourth release, a far cry from the fresh clarity of *Goodbye Jumbo*, still offers enough tunecraft and general oddness to make it a cut above the run of the mill.

Wallinger's musical sensibilities, like those of fellow British eccentrics Robyn Hitchcock and Nick Lowe, are derived from a hippie background funneled through alternative college radio.

What you're left with, especially on tracks like "It Is Time" and "Curse of the Mummy's Tomb," is happy-go-lucky sunshine-fueled guitar pop with an underlying sense of populist activism.



Lisa Stanfield's voice is all funked up with nowhere to go.

Wallinger's knack for beautiful ballads holds up on "She's the One" and "This World," and if the overall songwriting level has

diminished in the seven years since *Goodbye Jumbo*, then it's only because the expectations were so great.

It's still a keeper.

LISA Stanfield's fourth eponymous album is uptown blue-eyed r&b. A little too blue-eyed. Stanfield's voice is an impressive instrument, but surrounded in middle-of-the-road arrangements and limp disco and funk backing tracks, it has nowhere to go.

That voice doesn't get any help, either, from Stanfield's ordinary songs, which slip from memory like high heels on a waxed dance floor.

On a few ballads, she tries to enter Whitney Houston territory, but her attempts sound more like rubber soul.

And she never shows flashes of

the humor she displayed in her appearance a few years back at the Freddy Mercury tribute concert in which she came out in curlers with a vacuum cleaner.

GENEVA is proof that a bad name doesn't necessarily mean a bad band. On the contrary, this debut from this Scottish quintet is one of the better "Brit-guitar band" releases this year.

Geneva knows a good hook when it hears one, and its sleek, if unimaginative, approach to the material exposes some fine songwriting talent. Chiming guitars compete with crystalline clear vocals, and the punchy rhythm takes care of the rest.

But there's nothing here that hasn't been done by Suede or Oasis, which had already been done by Bowie and The Kinks, which had already been...

FESTIVAL ROUNDUP

Arad's 'spiritual' side

By AMY KLEIN

Never has the maxim "You get out of something only what you put into it" been more true than at last week's three-day Arad music festival, where audience reactions matched the energy of the performers.

Take Mami Caspi's understated stage presence. At a gig attended by a crowd that had more gray hair than not, Caspi didn't yell, dance, or cajole the crowd. Typical, deadpan Caspi aside from a terse explanation for his four-year furlough ("I had some things I needed to do. I'm glad to be back") and a few sardonic comments, he sat still and played.

A standing ovation marked his entrance and exit, but for the most part much of the crowd was talking without bothering to whisper, walking around, at times singing along, bored and restless — especially during the new songs.

His voice as mellifluous as ever, Caspi sang his own songs as well as ones he wrote for other singers like Yehudit Ravitz and Riki Gal.

To see how a real star treats her audience, Rita's gig was the place to be. With a regal stage presence, the sexy, beautiful soprano danced, laughed and sang, bestowing upon the crowd of 1,400 a true show. Her changes of costume (a black, sultry number, a fun ruby blouse and a classy, cream-colored belly-baring gown) was nothing less than one would expect from her. Her husband Rami

Kleinstein is more like the boy next door. "Good morning!" he beams even though it's three in the morning on the concert stage set up below Masada. "Why are you all standing so far away?" He looks to the guards, "Is there any reason they can't move up? They'll be good, I promise."

In his first performance of eight months, Kleinstein, at the piano under the starry sky, made you feel like you were in his living room. Cleverly, he introduced the songs from his new album in between his older hits such as "Apples and Dates" and "Forever Young."

Someone who made full use of the dramatic Masada setting was David Broza, who also performed at three in the morning. During his all-Hebrew performance, different parts of the mountaintop were lit up in white or red, flame-like lighting. Broza spared us his usual 20-minute riffs and making love to his guitar. For three hours he treated the audience to one of his best performances, perhaps because he invited performers such as Ronit Shahar to share the stage.

"Masada is very spiritual. I've performed all over the world, and no one... can build a stage like this," Broza told *The Jerusalem Post*.

For teens the highlight of the festival was the thunderous night of hard rock, featuring Ice 9, The Jews, Roquefort, Barry Saharov and an electric Aviv Gefen. It was a freaks' field day: tongue rings, mohawks ("Stance of Liberty haircuts"), belly-necklaces, tattoos, chains, etc.

A taste for the shtetl

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The growing world-wide popularity of klezmer music was evidenced by the thousands of people who flocked to Safed last week for the 10th annual Klezmer Festival.

The crowds moving through Safed's winding alleys were frequently headed in the direction of the more authentic sounds, though many stopped to listen to Nunu, the six-member jazz klezmer band from Munich whose musicians are not Jewish but sing in Lithuanian-accented Yiddish.

Band leader and bass player Uwe Schwidewski doesn't see anything unusual about a German group adopting klezmer music. "Musical emotions are not exclusive," he says. "Music belongs to everyone — but we have our own particular interpretation." What was most

heartening to Nunu was the positive feedback from Orthodox audiences in Safed. Nunu has played before similar audiences in Europe, but the band members weren't quite sure of the reception they would receive in Israel. As it turned out, they were a real hit.

Avi Piamanta, the jazz musician and composer who is now a Habad hassid, played several gigs, but the busiest performer was storyteller Shaul Mayzlish, who moved from stage to stage with a cornucopia of mostly hassidic parables.

He was at his best at the *shetl* — a totally atmospheric *heminthe* reception on the patio of Habad House, where male guests rose from tables piled with herring, cakes, cookies, soft drinks and vodka to dance with wild abandon almost to a state of ecstasy as the rhythm of the music quickened and spectators joined in by stamping their feet and clapping.

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Music Director: Zubin Mehta

Zubin Mehta, conductor

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Paolo Barbacini, tenor

Angelo Vecchia, baritone

Andrea Silvestrelli, bass

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DANCE ROUNDUP

Viva España! Fancy footwork straight from Spain

By ORA BRAFMAN

SPANISH NATIONAL BALLET

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center,

July 16

The Spanish National Ballet concocted a program that was intended to show the wide range of the Spanish dance language, a truly unique phenomenon in the West, whereby a codified-movement vocabulary is totally identified with a specific national culture. This enables one to travel easily from folk to court dance, shifting to dramatic and theatrical stage dance, and set-

ting at contemporary expressions that are still firmly within the national framework.

Zapateado ("Stamping"), danced by Oscar Jimenez, brought some traditional light footwork. With his virtuoso performance, devoid of acrobatics, he contributed some of the more pleasing moments of the evening.

Communicating through change of intensity and frequency of rhythms is a Spanish speciality, yet Mariema's choreography in *Dance and Rhythms* concentrates on staying pretty. When it came to *Gitanos y Boleros* ("Gypsies and Dancers") the desired wild streak was unfortunately missing.

The second half of the evening inclined toward high drama with choreographer Jose Granero's *Bolero and Medea*. His *Bolero* is pretty intense but cannot compete with the ultimate, electrifying stage interpretation of Maurice Bejart. Although his *Medea* was

more credible on the TAPA stage than at New York's City Center, it is too melodramatic. When Granero's *Medea* dances in an unbearably verbal way, splashed on the floor, tearing her heart and soul out, she is less impressive than in her duet with her husband, King Jason, which has the passion, pride and pain of a powerful love-hate deadlock at its deadly peak.

BATISHEVA ENSEMBLE

Suzanne Dellal, July 18

THE Batsheva Ensemble, the young company alongside Batsheva Dance Company, systematically supports new works by ensemble members, which sometimes pro-

duce interesting results.

Yossi Berg's first solo work, *Architect*, joins the *Vain Ode* by Lara Bartsag, *Vigilant* of the ensemble, and unveils a talented dancer-creator with a lot of promise. Although the world premier of *100 Movements* by Canadian choreographer Lynda Gaudreau was intended to be the show's highlight, *Larmes blanches* ("White Tears") by French choreographer Agnès Perlejac took center stage. It turned out to be the only work that is coherent in its visual images as well as in thought processes.

Perlejac takes the time to establish a series of theme-movements that form a solid foundation for his artistic voice: his clear control of stagecraft is ever more convincing after seeing Bartsag's and Gaudreau's works, which are scholastic yet mechanical in nature.

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JOHN SCHWARTZ

In the course of reading late last night's edition of the Jerusalem Post, I was struck by the story of the Golem. The Golem is a creature of Prague, created by a Jewish mystic, Rabbi Loew, in the 16th century. It was a being of mud and iron, created to protect the Jewish quarter of the city from the Christians. The Golem was a powerful being, but it was also a creature of fear. It was a creature that was created by a man, but it was also a creature that was created by a man's fears.

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High-tech truths in 400-year-old tale

A Freund in deed

Bella Freund made headlines in 1992 for an unusual act. Now the haredi woman is in the public eye again, this time in an effort to foster secular-religious dialogue, Amy Klein reports

Bella Freund is used to doing the unexpected. Five years ago, the haredi woman stopped an angry mob from attacking an Arab who had just stabbed two boys in Jerusalem's marketplace. She stood in front of him for 27 minutes while people kicked and punched her, one even burnt her with a cigarette. She did what "any normal human being should have done," she unabashedly told the press in the weeks that followed, taking an unusually public stand, particularly for a haredi woman.

Freund is back in the public eye. This time she has joined forces with her secular friend Ilana Ravid to found Shiluv ("integration, interweaving"), an organization whose purpose is to create a dialogue between secular and religious Jews. What makes this organization different from the dozens of others around Israel is that this one won't do anything.

Well, not anything that the other dialogue groups do. What Shiluv will do is serve as an umbrella organization for all the existing groups. "By working together, everyone will get more power. There are many movements. We want to work together to influence this nation," says Ravid who, a year ago, had intended to start an organization to promote dialogue between the two groups but found that there were already over 30 organizations with this purpose, some redundant, and most exhibiting influence only within their immediate surroundings. Unity and coordination for the existing organizations, she decided, would be her contribution.

"Ever since I moved from Haifa to Jerusalem five years ago, I have felt the mounting tension between religious and non-religious Jews," says the 60-plus Ravid. "I thought, if I don't work to resolve this, who will?" Six months ago Ravid enlisted the 45-year-old Freund to join her in this mission. Ravid first met Freund four years ago when the Society for a Better Israel (an organization which Ravid helped found) bestowed upon Freund an award for protecting the Arab assault on the mob.

Over this last half year they worked to identify the different organizations (Dialogue, Common Denominator, Conversation, Paths, to name a few) and meet with some of their directors, who all agreed that there was a need for a "steering" organization. On July 7, Shiluv was born. And now they are ready to work.

Their first activity: a conference, to be held, at the end of September for all organizations and people who would like to improve relations between the religious and the non-religious. Shiluv, as an apolitical organization, will work to push this issue to the top of the national agenda, through public relations, advertis-



Bella Freund (left) and Ilana Ravid, founders of Shiluv, an umbrella organization for secular-religious dialogue groups. (Sarit Uziel)

ing, information exchange, planning, and by letting the organizations "each work in their own particular way," says Ravid.

"We want to break through the barriers. We have to dismantle them," adds Freund.

HOW DOES one improve relations between two sectors of society that these days can barely stand on the same side of the street without a police blockade between them? "It's easy to hate a stranger. It's much harder to

How does one improve relations between two sectors of society that these days can barely stand on the same side of the street without a police blockade between them?

hate someone you are sitting face-to-face with," says Ravid. Freund agrees. "Look, if you take off the nose ring and the streimel, when you sit two people down, something good will come out of it."

Very nice ideals, but what happens when the groups come upon unresolvable issues? "The army is a problem for me; I feel that half the nation is serving

for another half," admits Ravid. "But still this is something that I think we can talk about."

Freund agrees. "The army is a difficult issue. I can understand how people feel about all the people who don't serve, religious and not religious."

Both happen to think that this is not their problem, but the government's to solve. They believe they can make their impact not so much through discussion, but by promoting joint activities for secular and religious people. "Why do we have to talk about everything?" asks Freund. Next school year, she will be working with one of the organizations to distribute books to poor children. Freund believes that common causes forge bonds. "I am haredi - let us all be haredi (fearful) against traffic accidents, against battered women, against poor children. These are the things we can work together on."

The first step, though, is to open the lines of communication. "The minute you open a dialogue, you open up the process to accept one another as they are," Freund believes.

But is acceptance possible? "I have many secular friends whom I respect and have learned a lot from," says Freund. "I want them to understand who I am and where I am from."

"I believe in God, not religion, but I respect someone else's right to keep the commandments," says Ravid. She is more wary. "But I don't want any religious coercion."

"I don't want to make anyone

religious," Freund insists. "First of all, it is against Jewish law to coerce someone to be religious. Secondly, if they were religious, then I wouldn't be with them."

TO UNDERSTAND how unlikely it is that these two women are allies, one must first know that they are from as different worlds as two Israeli Ashkenazi women can be: Freund's parents, survivors of Auschwitz, were hassidim. Freund is also married to a hassid, and they and their eight children are affiliated with the Agudat Israel party. She is an anomaly in a community that,

"If you take off the nose ring and the streimel, when you sit people down, something good will come out of it."

although it values charity and peace, prefers to keep itself - and particularly its women - out of the public eye.

Freund recently took a public stand supporting the right of religious women to cover their hair with a wig. This came in response to a ruling by Shas Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, prohibiting women from covering their hair with a wig alone. "If we can have the responsibility of raising eight children, I think we can make decisions on how to dress," she says.

Ravid, a "total secularist," was born in Israel to Polish parents - Maskilim "intellectuals" - who were so secular that they didn't even speak Yiddish in their house. It upsets her that many secular people feel they could more easily hold a dialogue with Arabs than with haredim.

Despite their different worlds, these women have much in common. They both come from Zionist homes (Freund's father served in the army). They are both aesthetic in their appearance (sharing the mirror to prep before pictures) and in their living space (Ravid's airy Rehavia penthouse is filled with her sculptures and plants, while Freund's silver Judaica adorns her spacious apartment in Makor Baruch). Professionally, they have both devoted their careers to helping others. Freund as a marriage counselor and social worker, and Ravid as a teacher and principal.

What makes them work well together is what motivates them: a combination of fear and love.

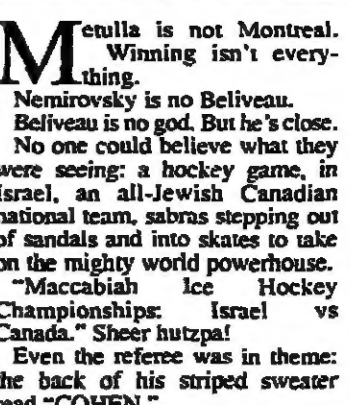
"We are going to lose this land that we worked so hard for because we will be weak," says Ravid.

"Jerusalem was destroyed not because people stopped respecting Shabbat," says Freund, "but because they didn't respect one another."

"We need to create brotherly love. For our grandchildren," Ravid insists. "Not love," concedes Freund. "Acceptance. And not for our grandchildren. Nor our children. For us. For me and you."

Not Page One Hockey Night in - Metulla

By Sam Orbaum



Metulla is not Montreal. Winning isn't everything. Nemirovsky is no Beliveau. Beliveau is no god. But he's close. No one could believe what they were seeing: a hockey game, in Israel, an all-Jewish Canadian national team, sabras stepping out of sandals and into skates to take on the mighty world powerhouse. "Maccabiah Ice Hockey Championships: Israel vs Canada," Sheer hutzpa! Even the referee was in theme: the back of his striped sweater read "COHEN."

The Israelis should have been collective roadkill, an ant under a Mack truck, the way the Canadians toolled up for this match. They brought a former Stanley Cup-winning coach, Jacques Demers of the Montreal Canadiens; the Canadiens and Toronto Maple Leafs provided their team trainers; the chairman of the team was a part owner of the Montreal Expos baseball team, Mark Routenberg; a couple of the players were borrowed from the National Hockey League; and if all that weren't enough, they brought along a legend of the game, Jean Beliveau, for inspiration.

Canada came to win. Israel, just to participate. Both achieved their goal.

Demers was not motivated by the Jewishness of it all, and had no reason to be: he was as singly dedicated to victory as when he paced

distant second. Metulla Mayor Yossi Goldberg got what he wanted: to put his pretty border village on the map; to bring big-time hockey to his world-class rink, an Olympic-sized mirage that won rapturous kudos from everyone there.

You knew this was Metulla, and not Montreal, by the depth of Goldberg's involvement in his town's most insignificant operations. I was chatting with Goldberg when he noticed a worker struggling to open a door to the rink. The mayor begged my pardon and explained to the worker the trick to jiggling this particular latch. That's a mayor!

(Goldberg gave the entire Canadian team the use of his own phone to call home, to reassure their families after the opening ceremony tragedy.) And everybody got what they wanted in Jean Beliveau.

He is the impossible combination of revered sports icon and humbly cordial gentleman. Every single person who dared approach him was received warmly; to every request for an autograph, photo, handshake, Beliveau ho-hoed abashedly and looked the stranger in the eye with an expression that actually seemed to say he was honored.

One fellow told Beliveau he'd been at the game in 1951 when the future Hall of Famer got his first trout. Beliveau happily reminisced with him for a few minutes.

No one could believe what they were seeing: a hockey game, in Israel, an all-Jewish Canadian national team, sabras stepping out of sandals and into skates.

behind the Montreal bench. Routenberg wanted to give the players a Jewish infusion. But also a gold medal.

The fans in attendance, they wanted it all. And got it. Most of them, judging by the vocal support, bleed maple syrup. There was a busload of tourists from Montreal, soldiers from Canada's Golan force, long-time immigrants who grew up on Saturday telecasts of Hockey Night in Canada.

You'd think those folks from the True North Strong and Free had a vocabulary limited to "fantastic!" "unbelievable!" and "incredible!" - such were the only words fans could utter when asked their thoughts on this improbable event. The Canadian players, they, too, wanted it all. And didn't get it. They grumbled about the competitive level; the remoteness of Metulla; the food, the lack of beautiful women ("Hey, man, we were promised great-looking girls in this country").

David Nemirovsky scored three goals in Canada's 12-1 win, but the consensus was that he could have scored twice that with a few dozen sexy female fans to spur him on. At a post-game dinner (which fully justified their complaints about the food), Nemirovsky nearly leapt through a plate-glass window when a begowned bride strode by on the other side.

"Women. Hockey and women, that's all we want," one of his teammates explained. "We went to the beach in Tel Aviv, that was great; they took us to the Wall in Jerusalem, not so great."

I got the feeling these were hockey players first, Jews a very

Lionel Gaffen, a photographer from Kfar Giladi, had this observation: "Watch him - everyone who asks for an autograph, they expect nothing more, but he spends a moment with each one. He asks a personal question, like where they're from or if they're enjoying the game. Anyone who asks him to pose for a photo, he puts his arm around their shoulders and pulls them in close, like a father."

What an athlete from Victoriaville, Quebec, has in common with an Upper Galilee politician I can't imagine, but Beliveau and Goldberg found a lot to talk about.

Even odder was when a uniformed IDF colonel - far more likely from Morocco or Iraq than from Canada - sat down next to Beliveau. Judging by their body language, they looked like old friends. When he wasn't besieged by fans, mayors, soldiers or newsmen, Beliveau's attention turned to the game. He had only good things to say - about the Canada Center complex, the rink, the quality of the ice, even about the team that was in the process of losing 12-1. He applauded the lone Israeli goal, lauded the overwhelmed goalie, admired the doggedness of the Israeli team. He spoke about Israel like a dyed-in-the-wool Zionist.

He didn't complain about the food or the women; wouldn't know how.

I, too, got what I wanted. A dream come true, if you'll pardon the regression into childish exuberance. I watched a hockey game sitting next to my boyhood idol. Like we were buddies.

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THEATER REVIEW

A play on worlds

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Hillel Mitterpunkt competes only with Hanoch Levin as one of today's most prolific as well as pessimistic Hebrew playwright-directors.

His 26th play to date, *Gan Eden Darom* ("South of Paradise"), now premiering at Beit Lessin, Tel Aviv, surpasses anything he has previously done.

His usual steamy, squalid slum milieus throbbing with the agonies, ecstasies, pathos and prides of damaged lives and derelict loves is here compounded with a present-day Ethiopian-Romanian-Russian-Sephardi-Ashkenazi mix that sizzles with cross-cultural frictions and friendships.

SOUTH OF PARADISE

By Hillel Mitterpunkt

A study of a stagnant southern town portrayed through the goings-on of the said Cafe Gan Eden and its habitués is developed in a novel, almost surreal structure of quick-change vignettes, monologues, confessions and other arresting dramatic devices. The play maintains its hold over the audience until the very end, which suffers somewhat from a lame denouement. This is about the only criticism that can be leveled at an otherwise deeply penetrating, realistic piece.

The quirks of a difficult dramatic concept crossed with so many

rocky relationships are competently and deftly handled in Mitterpunkt's direction. His text injects a nonstop infusion of local lingo and pithy street humor into the ongoing tenor of brutality and violence.

But above all, this production deserves to be seen for its eight outstanding performances. To assemble in one cast leading artists of the caliber of Aharon Almog (consummate as Dolphy, the darkly tragic, rueful Romanian), Gedalia Besser (his Odessa, the pedantic Russian, is yet another example of his elegant and exquisite acting), and Mati Seri (who, as Ruby, a small-time Pop-pusher, gives one of his most dynamic, deeply-felt character roles to date) is in itself a colossal feat.

The best and most unexpected performance comes from the hitherto unknown young newcomer Udi Gil, a "natural" in the role of Asher, the desperate, delinquent son. He invests a demanding part with a fine balance of poignancy and crude passion.

Ada Lev's Viva, his tempestuous, temperamental Mum, is delightful if deeply disturbing. Asi Levy's tough single-mother taxi-driver Jackie, is another spunky, refreshing study. Sharona, a demented disco-dancer (alas, in the text the role loses its vibrancy towards the end), is realized by Daphna Rechter with the right degree of frantic flamboyance and eye-catching allure. The Ethiopian waitress, a gentle, hovering presence throughout, is played by Tammy Akalia with unassuming charm.



The relationship between David (Brian Austin Green, above) and Donna is about to change.

'90210' trauma

By DANIEL J. CHALFEN

Tonight's episode of *Beverly Hills 90210* (8:55, Channel 3) was cited by many US TV critics as the "episode that will change American thinking" when it was aired there almost two months ago. In this, the last episode in the current — and most recent — series, innocent, angelic Donna Martin (played by Tori Spelling, daughter of producer Aaron Spelling) loses her virginity to long-term, Jewish boyfriend David Silver (Brian Austin Green).

It is the end of their college years, they are set to graduate, and Donna has decided that she is ready to take her relationship with David that one step further. She has seen her roommate Kelly's recent unwanted pregnancy and then miscarriage, she has been jealous of the after-dark hours other couples spend with each

other, she has brushed with Valerie's promiscuity and Steve and Clare's intensely tactile relationship, and has now decided she is ready to lose her virginity.

But over the years, through which Donna has turned down many sexual propositions on grounds of morality and Christian ethic, she has developed a following of fans, many of whom took vows of celibacy outside of marriage as a consequence. This concluding episode therefore came as a slap in the face for the anti-sex-before-marriage movement which has been snapping up teenagers in schools and colleges across the US in recent years. Psychologists reported a considerable amount of patients, teenagers and some in their early 20s, who were traumatized by the episode.

"They had created for themselves a hero, based their lifestyles on her, only to have their illusions

shattered," said a New York-born Israeli psychologist, "but it should not happen here, where *Beverly Hills* itself has had less social impact and where value systems are less determined by TV heroes than in the US."

With the conclusion of this series, debate about whether we will ever again see the *Beverly Hills* cast in these roles is rife. There is speculation that an eighth series, *Beverly Hills, the Married Years*, is being planned. Jason Priestly, Brandon Walsh in the series, who is now one of the producers as well as an actor, is very keen to return. He has, however, stated that he would only do so if he is billed as executive producer. Jennie Garth, Kelly Taylor in the series, has made it clear, however, that despite her current \$20,000 an episode payroll, she feels her *Beverly Hills* days are over and it is time to move on.

IN TUNE

By DAVID BRINN

Karl Wallinger under the moniker World Party is responsible for one of the best albums of the 1990s, as any of the few dozens of people who own it can attest.

EGYPTOLOGY

World Party (NMC)

LISA STANFIELD

Lisa Stanfield (Red Artz)

FURTHER

Geneva (NMC)

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FESTIVAL ROUNDUP

Arad's 'spiritual' side

By AMY KLEIN

Never has the maxim "You get out of something only what you put into it" been more true than at last week's three-day Arad music festival, where audience reactions matched the energy of the performers.

Take Matti Caspi's understated stage presence. At a gig attended by a crowd that had more gray hair than not, Caspi didn't yell, dance, or cajole the crowd. Typical, deadpan Caspi: aside from a terse explanation for his four-year furlough ("I had some things I needed to do. I'm glad to be back") and a few sardonic comments, he sat still and played.

A standing ovation marked his entrance and exit, but for the most part much of the crowd was talking without bothering to whisper, walking around, at times singing along, bored and restless — especially during the new songs.

His voice as mellifluous as ever, Caspi sang his own songs as well as ones he wrote for other singers like Yehudit Ravitz and Riki Gal.

To see how a real star treats her audience, Rina's gig was the place to be. With a regal stage presence, the sexy, beautiful soprano danced, laughed and sang, bestowing upon the crowd of 1,400 a true show. Her changes of costume (a black, sultry number, a fun ruby blouse and a classy, cream-colored belly-baring gown) was nothing less than one would expect from her. Her husband Rami

Kleinstein is more like the boy next door. "Good morning!" he beams even though it's three in the morning on the concert stage set up below Masada. "Why are you all standing so far away?" He looks to the guards. "Is there any reason they can't move up? They'll be good, I promise."

In his first performance of eight months, Kleinstein, at the piano under the starry sky, made you feel like you were in his living room. Cleverly, he introduced the songs from his new album in between his older hits such as "Apples and Dates" and "Forever Young."

Someone who made full use of the dramatic Masada setting was David Broza, who also performed at three in the morning. During his all-Hebrew performance, different parts of the mountaintop were lit up in white or red, flame-like lighting. Broza spared us his usual 20-minute riffs and making love to his guitar. For three hours he treated the audience to one of his best performances, perhaps because he invited performers such as Ronit Shahar to share the stage.

"Masada is very spiritual. I've performed all over the world, and no one... can build a stage like this," Broza told *The Jerusalem Post*.

For teens the highlight of the festival was the thunderous night of hard rock, featuring Ice 9, The Jews, Roquefort, Barry Saharov and an electric Aviv Gefen. It was a freaky field day: tongue rings, mohawks ("Statue of Liberty haircuts"), belly-necklaces, tattoos, chains, etc.

A taste for the shtetl

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The growing world-wide popularity of klezmer music was evidenced by the thousands of people who flocked to Safed last week for the 10th annual Klezmer Festival.

The crowds moving through Safed's winding alleys were frequently headed in the direction of the more authentic sounds, though many stopped to listen to Nunu, the six-member jazz klezmer band from Munich whose musicians are not Jewish but sing in Lithuanian-accented Yiddish.

Band leader and bass player Uwe Schwidewski doesn't see anything unusual about a German group adopting klezmer music. "Musical emotions are not exclusive," he says. "Music belongs to everyone — but we have our own particular interpretation." What was most

heartening to Nunu was the positive feedback from Orthodox audiences in Safed. Nunu has played before similar audiences in Europe, but the band members weren't quite sure of the reception they would receive in Israel. As it turned out, they were a real hit.

Avi Piamanta, the jazz musician and composer who is now a Habad hassid, played several gigs, but the busiest performer was storyteller Shaul Mayzlish, who moved from stage to stage with a cornucopia of mostly hassidic parables.

He was at his best at the *zisk* — a totally atmospheric *heimeis* reception on the patio of Habad House, where male guests rose from tables piled with herring, cakes, cookies, soft drinks and vodka to dance with wild abandon almost to a state of ecstasy as the rhythm of the music quickened and spectators joined in by stamping their feet and clapping.

The muse from the mummy's tomb

By DAVID BRINN

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DANCE ROUNDUP

Viva España! Fancy footwork straight from Spain

By ORA BRAFMAN

SPANISH NATIONAL BALLET

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, July 16

The Spanish National Ballet concocted a program that was intended to show the wide range of the Spanish dance language, a truly unique phenomenon in the West, whereby a codified-movement vocabulary is totally identified with a specific national culture. This enables one to travel easily from folk to court dance, shifting to dramatic and theatrical stage dance, and set-

ting at contemporary expressions that are still firmly within the national framework.

Zapateado ("Stamping"), danced by Oscar Jimenez, brought some traditional light footwork. With his virtuoso performance, devoid of acrobatics, he contributed some of the more pleasing moments of the evening.

Communicating through change of intensity and frequency of rhythms is a Spanish specialty; yet Marieme's choreography in *Dance and Rhythms* concentrates on staying pretty. When it came to *Gitanos y Boleros* ("Gypsies and Dancers") the desired wild streak was unfortunately missing.

The second half of the evening inclined toward high drama with choreographer Jose Granero's *Bolero and Medea*. His *Bolero* is pretty intense but cannot compete with the ultimate, electrifying stage interpretation of Maurice Bejart. Although his *Medea* was

more credible on the TAPA stage than at New York's City Center, it is too melodramatic. When Granero's *Medea* dances in an unbearably verbal way, splashed on the floor, tearing her heart and soul out, she is less impressive than in her duet with her husband, King Jason, which has the passion, pride and pain of a powerful love-hate deadlock at its deadly peak.

BATISHEVA ENSEMBLE

Suzanne Deltat, July 18

THE Batsheva Ensemble, the young company alongside Batsheva Dance Company, systematically supports new works by ensemble members, which sometimes pro-

duce interesting results.

Yossi Berg's first solo work, *Architect*, joins the *Vain Ode* by Lara Barsag, veteran of the ensemble, and unveils a talented dancer-creator with a lot of promise. Although the world premier of *100 Movements* by Canadian choreographer Lynda Gaudreau was intended to be the show's highlight, *Larmes blanches* ("White Tears") by French choreographer Angelin Perlejac took center stage. It turned out to be the only work that is coherent in its visual images as well as in thought processes.

Perlejac takes the time to establish a series of theme-movements that form a solid foundation for his artistic voice. His clear control of stagecraft is ever more convincing after seeing Barsag's and Gaudreau's works, which are scholastic yet mechanical in nature.

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Music Director: Zubin Mehta

Zubin Mehta, conductor

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US policy institutes redefine roles

With the Cold War over, think tanks opt for stringency, sound-bites and cyberspace

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON — The staid community of Washington "think tanks" has been trying over the last year or so to find new ways to capture the attention of a post-Cold War America, realizing that the only way they can change the world is to get somebody to listen.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has hired a new president who is known for applying her scientific training to new, "global" issues such as terrorism and the environment. And it has revamped its subsidized magazine, *Foreign Policy*, to look more like a literary magazine and to grab a broader audience.

Over at the Brookings Institution, new President, Michael H. Armacost feared that his organization was too closely associated with the Democratic Party and that people were too busy to read its scholarly research. Armacost hired a centrist Republican to direct foreign-policy studies. He is known for his quick mind and media savvy and has become one of Washington's most quoted experts.

At the same time, Brookings is paring down its list of fellows and asking them to write shorter research summaries, or "policy briefs," for Washington politicians and professionals.

The appointments of Jessica T. Mathews, 51, as head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Richard N. Haass, 43, at Brookings, are part of each institute's plan to find a new

look and new financial support.

Ms. Mathews made her mark as an innovator. A former *Washington Post* columnist, she turned down a top job in the Clinton administration to become Carnegie's president. While she is well-grounded in traditional areas and has served on the board of both Carnegie and Brookings, her appointment is emblematic of the search for a more global rationale.

"I don't think my appointment had symbolic value to the search committee," she said. "But it clearly does to others," who have sent her hundreds of letters.

In part, she said, it is "a sense that I don't have a traditional foreign-policy background," with career-long efforts to integrate new themes such as the spread of nuclear weapons or human rights or the environment. And in part it is her ability, like Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's, to break gender ceilings.

The changes at Brookings, which also has major divisions in economic and governmental studies, are less striking and more traditional. For the last 18 months, Armacost has been engineering a quiet shake-up to make it more nonpartisan "in a way that shapes the public agenda and is useful to policy makers," he said.

"The public is looking for practical answers, not ideology," he added.

At a time when money for foreign policy is decreasing, whether in Congress or among charitable foundations, there is a new, com-

petitive concentration on salesmanship — getting the message pithy and quotable, for legislators and a wider national audience.

The paradox, as Haass sees it, is that "as the old paradigms are shifting and nothing has taken their place," the study of foreign policy by outsiders should be thriving, since government officials are generally too busy to think.

"But with the Cold War over, there's less urgency, and interest in foreign policy is smaller than it's been in the last 30 or 40 years," he said.

Ms. Mathews said the main difficulty for the policy research groups, a problem Albright also faces, is that "while there is general recognition that we're the indispensable nation, the question remains: 'Indispensable for what?' But the one-answer answer isn't working, and without one answer in a soundbite society, it's hard to articulate a rationale without the Cold War's military imperative," she said.

Starting as a science adviser to Congress with a Ph.D. in molecular biology, Ms. Mathews became director of issues and research in Rep. Morris Udall's campaign for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination, and then, at 30, created the Office of Global Issues in Zbigniew Brzezinski's National Security Council under president Jimmy Carter, where Armacost and Ms. Albright also served.

Her mother, the late historian Barbara Tuchman, pushed her to write — "she said it's a muscle you need," Ms. Mathews remembered,

"and a way to learn to write is through journalism."

After Carter's 1980 reelection defeat, she wrote editorials for *The Washington Post* for three years, then helped found the World Resources Institute, one of the first research institutions to focus on the environment and government policy.

When she left 11 years later, its staff, which had grown from 3 to 110, taught her about institution-building, fund-raising and promoting research that affects government policy.

She left to enter the Clinton administration as deputy under secretary on global affairs, but quit in frustration after nine months. The size of the bureaucracy, its traditional training and emphasis on crisis management made it hard to concentrate on global issues.

"It's the difference between a chronic illness and a severe one," she said. "In government, you think it's all about the cables you read, and it's hard to see that things are happening that are beyond your control." Increasingly, she argues, key actors are nongovernmental agencies or citizens' groups such as Amnesty International and international institutions such as the World Bank or the United Nations.

Other institutions, such as the Heritage Foundation, continue to thrive on more ideological grounds. This use of ideas as weapons crafted for political wars by "combat intellectuals" — rather than "nonideological tools to be employed by policy makers regardless of their

political affiliation" — was the focus of a valedictory essay by Charles William Maynes, after 17 years of running Carnegie's *Foreign Policy*.

The magazine's first issue under a new editor, Moises Naim, has just appeared, with shorter articles, summaries of key articles in foreign and foreign-language journals, more reviews of books published abroad, a new web site, and more photographs.

While Carnegie has a large endowment, raising funds is increasingly important as some traditional givers have stopped financing foreign-policy projects.

Ms. Mathews also wants to address "this whole question of public attention to foreign policy, of which the shrinking pool of funds is a reflection." Polls show great public interest in foreign policy, "while there's a complete disconnect between the polls and Congress," which is more isolationist. "The problem is not the general public so much, but Congress," she said. "We have to really think about this."

Brookings is also thinking about where to downsize. On the Middle East or arms control, "a lot of the conceptual work has been done," Haass said. "It needs to be implemented, but that's insider work." He has encouraged some scholars to go into government or do field work to reenergize themselves, and favors shorter-term appointments.

"I see Brookings as a place where you spend part of a career," he said. "Maybe people shouldn't spend 40 years at a think tank."

(New York Times)

Coney Island to get facelift

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

NEW YORK — Inspired by the success of efforts to redevelop Times Square, private investors and state officials are now turning their attention to another long-neglected part of New York City: Coney Island.

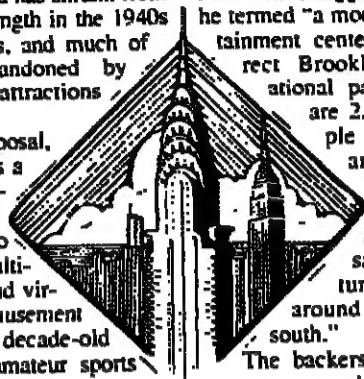
The efforts have gained new momentum in recent weeks because Bruce Ratner, a developer with a proven track record in several large projects, has shown interest in Coney Island. Ratner's most notable project so far is the Metrotech office complex, which has been credited with reviving downtown Brooklyn.

Coney Island, perhaps more than any other address in New York, most approaches the historical flamboyance and cachet of Times Square — and still retains a mythic reputation as a land of roller coasters, snake handlers and other amusements. But the reality is much grimmer: The amusement area has shrunk from 20 blocks in length in the 1940s to three blocks, and much of the land abandoned by amusement attractions are 2.4 million people in Brooklyn, and they don't all go to Times Square. "They'll turn their cars around and head south,"

said she believed that the project would pass environmental and zoning reviews, adding, "When the public sector gets involved, it reduces unnecessary roadblocks for the private sector." So far, only Ratner has put forth a concrete proposal, but other developers agree that the time may be right for a showy commercial development in Coney Island, particularly if it is accompanied by the sort of governmental aid Times Square received. There, the state spent \$75m., largely in condemnation proceedings, to stimulate \$1.6b. in private expenditures.

"We believe it's a ripe area for development," said Philip Wolf, who is overseeing the building of Brooklyn's first new hotel in 50 years for the Mudd Development Co. in the borough's downtown area.

Lewis Rudin, a leading real-estate developer and chairman of the Association for a Better New York, suggested that what he termed "a modern-day entertainment center" could redirect Brooklynites' recreational passions. "There are 2.4 million people in Brooklyn, and they don't all go to Times Square. 'They'll turn their cars around and head south,'



Ratner's proposal, which involves a private investment of \$100 million, is to link a new multiplex theater and virtual-reality amusement park with a decade-old plan for an amateur sports center that would be built with money from state bonds.

For Ratner's proposal to go forward, he would have to acquire the land from the city, which now owns it. The plan must also pass environmental and zoning reviews, a process that could take several years. But state officials said they believed that Ratner's proposal complied with zoning rules for the Coney Island area.

Ratner has refused to comment publicly on his proposal. But Charles Gargano, the chairman of the Empire State Development Corp., a major player in Times Square, said that the state was committed to the redevelopment of the area and that Ratner's involvement was a major boost for these efforts. He added that he had spoken to other developers who he said also thought that such a Coney Island project would work, and that he and the governor had had "many discussions" recently about Coney Island.

"If we can rebuild 42nd Street, we can certainly rebuild Coney Island," Gargano said. "What it needs is some investment." The current discussion is linked to the status of Sportsplex, a proposed 12,300-seat indoor athletic center that would be in the old Steeplechase Park amusement area — once the centerpiece of Coney Island. Financing for Sportsplex is part of the current budget negotiations in Albany and would require \$75m. in bonds from the state; the Legislature has failed to approve the proposal for the last two years. State officials say the Ratner project is based upon the approval of Sportsplex.

Gargano said the project's prospects were sweeter this year because of Ratner's proposal and because of several other developers' interest in commercial developments to accompany the arena.

Gargano pledged state help with transportation and other infrastructure improvements, as well as aid in acquiring private land.

He said Gov. George Pataki, who he said supports Sportsplex, is eager to speed development of Coney Island, regardless of whether Sportsplex goes ahead.

"Sportsplex would be a good part of it, but it doesn't have to be," Gargano said. "There wasn't one of those when Coney Island was booming."

Nevertheless, development efforts face many obstacles, not the least of which is that, unlike Times Square, Coney Island is far away from the main stumping grounds of tourists. Also, its main attraction in the early part of the century — the beach — is not the draw it once was, since automobiles have made places such as Jones Beach on Long Island and other spots easily accessible.

Furthermore, the current redevelopment efforts are predicated on a combined public-private effort, and the decades-long effort to improve Times Square showed how difficult these efforts can be.

Caroline Quattraro, a spokeswoman for Empire State Development Corp., the state economic development agency,

asked Ratner to do a business analysis of the area around Sportsplex's hopeful site. Gargano had suggested that such an analysis was likely to make the project more attractive to the governor.

The developer returned with a full-scale development proposal, which foundation officials and their consultants say he has already submitted to the city.

The details of his proposal were contained in an economic analysis conducted by TAMS Consultants Inc. The proposal involves a more than 400,000-square-foot entertainment and retail complex to stretch from 15th to 19th Streets. It would include the sort of electronic games now popular in Times Square, and it would partly sit on land presently occupied by the skeleton of the Thunderbolt roller coaster, which closed in 1983. It would generate more than 1,000 construction jobs and more than 300 permanent jobs, TAMS said.

Andrew Parker, a principal of the consulting firm, said his and Ratner's own analysis assumed no subsidies, other than being given vacant land owned by the city. TAMS calculated that the project would generate \$12.1m. in new annual tax revenues for the city and \$9.5m. for the state after subtracting \$4.8m. a year in debt service on state-backed bonds.

Ratner, a major contributor to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, has also been involved in the redevelopment of the Times Square area and developed the Atlantic Center mall project in Brooklyn.

The Sportsplex project is a 262,000-square-foot facility where 12,300 spectators could watch basketball games, track meets and other indoor athletic events.

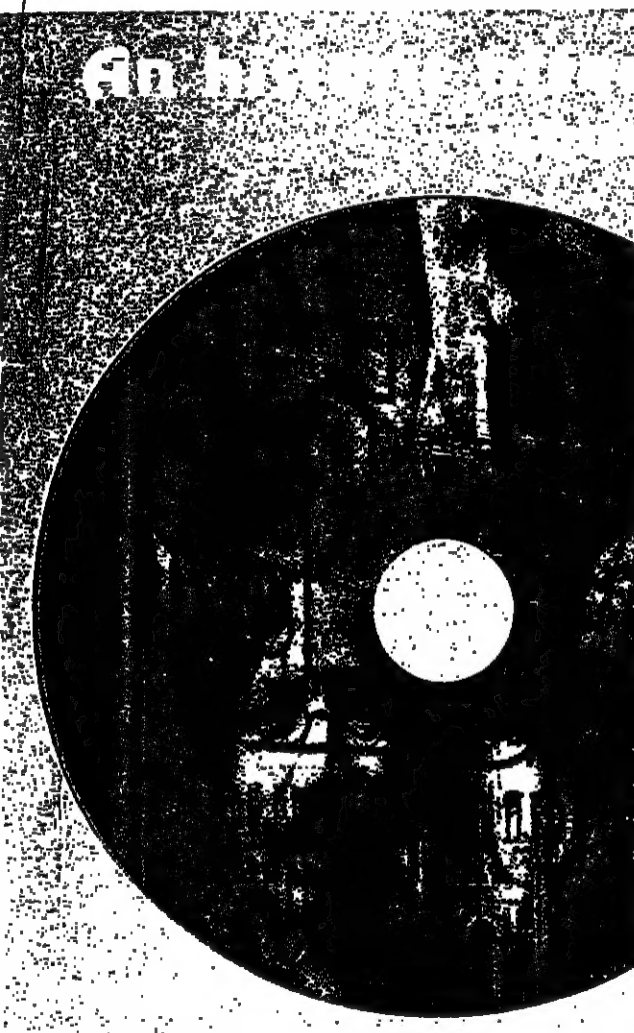
Backers say there are only 54 public gyms in Brooklyn, a borough that is home to an estimated 600,000 amateur athletes, some of whom practice track events in school hallways. In addition, there is no athletic venue in Brooklyn with more than St. Francis University's 1,800 seats.

Because there are so few venues between Madison Square Garden and small high school gyms, school officials said Sportsplex would attract athletes from beyond Brooklyn.

"We don't see it as a Brooklyn facility; we see it as a citywide facility," said William Thompson, president of the Board of Education, which has pledged to pay \$1 for each student using Sportsplex. Brooklyn colleges have promised \$2 a user.

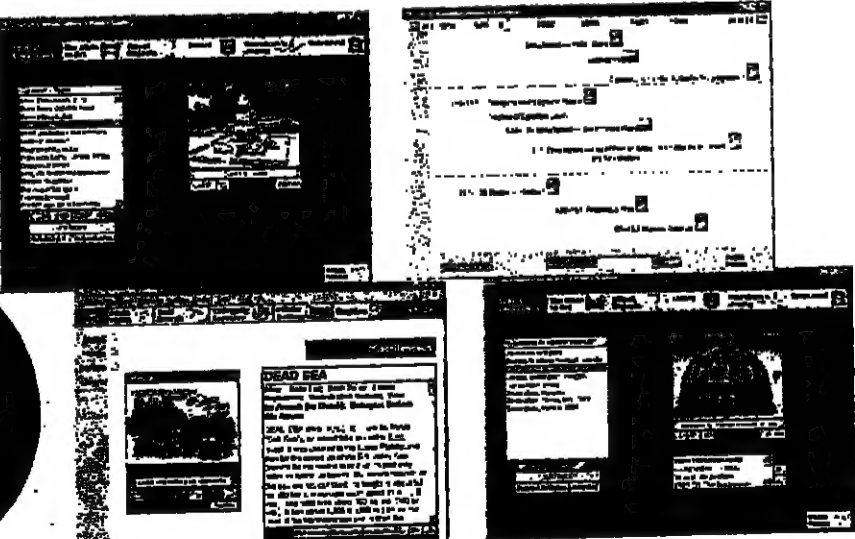
Sportsplex planners also hope to rent the center for events as varied as business conventions and ethnic festivals.

They have also discussed possible bookings with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the Harlem Globetrotters and organizers of pro wrestling and tractor pulls and other events they see very much in the tradition of Coney Island's raucous show-business heritage. They calculate that rent from such events, expected to take up only 9 percent of Sportsplex's bookings, would more than cover the center's estimated \$2.5m. annual operating cost. (New York Times)



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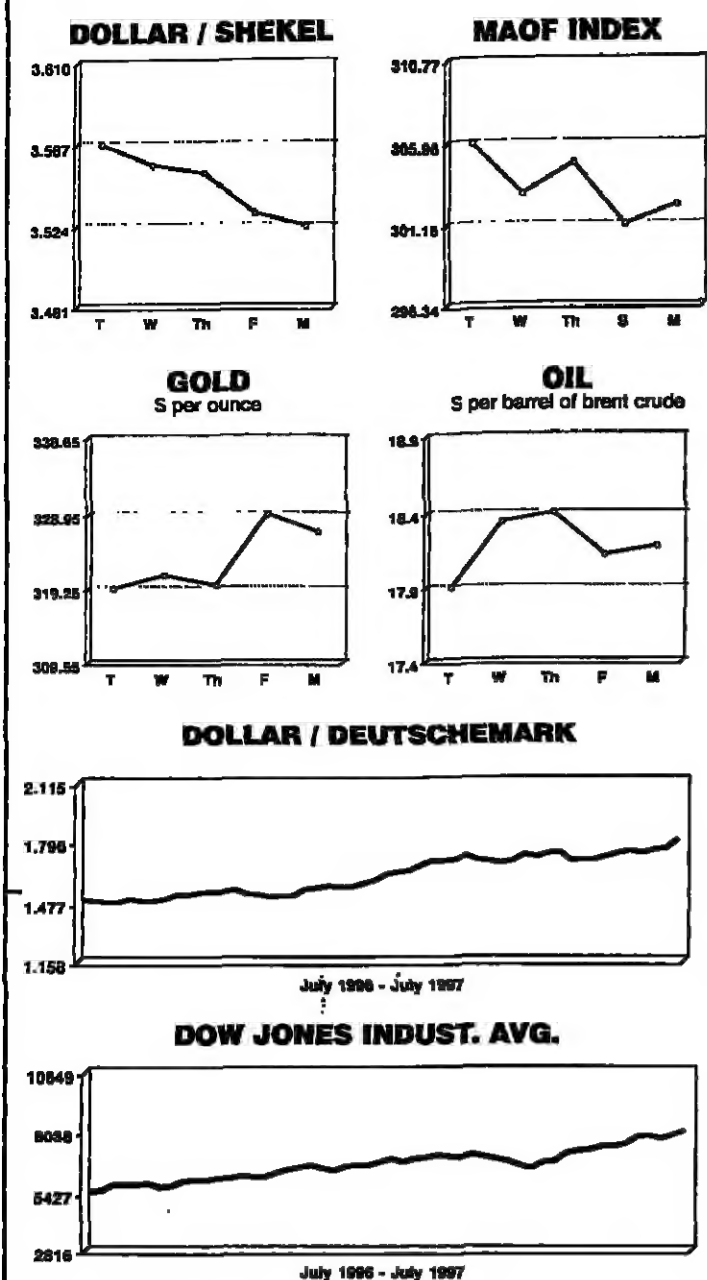
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MARKETS

in brief



NetGrocer to join on-line shopping business

NetGrocer Inc. was scheduled to launch an on-line shopping service yesterday that will deliver canned food, toilet paper, and other items for a modest charge in a bid to change the way many groceries are distributed.

The Web-based service has no membership fee, but will charge \$2.99 to deliver via Federal Express 10 pounds (3.7 kg.) of non-perishable products anywhere in the US. Each additional 10 pounds will cost another 99 cents.

"We're targeting customers who want merchandise delivered to their homes without the hassle associated with supermarkets - time spent on the trip, waiting in long lines and transporting heavy bags of groceries," company president Daniel Nissan said.

NetGrocer will buy its products from manufacturers and resell them to shoppers on-line. AMR Corp.'s American Airlines distribution services unit will handle product selection and warehousing. (Reuters)

Ne'eman unveils NIS 800m. extra budget cut tonight

Defense and health ministers demanding NIS 1b.-plus increase

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman will present the Treasury's proposal for an NIS 800 million supplementary budget cut at a special cabinet session tonight.

It is still unclear whether there will be majority support for the plan, with several ministers still strongly opposed to the cuts. Among these are Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Meanwhile, in separate meet-

ings with Mordechai and Matza, Ne'eman held his first talks on the 1998 budget. Mordechai demanded an NIS 1.5 billion increase and Matza another NIS 1.3b., according to a senior Finance Ministry source.

Of the NIS 800m. cut proposal, NIS 600m. are specifically targeted at reducing the government's burgeoning budget deficit, the remaining NIS 200m. are split between NIS 180m. in US aid that will be transferred from Israel to Jordan and NIS 20m. that will fund the replenishment of the country's gas-mask supply.

The key NIS 600m. cut is aimed at reducing the domestic budget deficit to 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product or

NIS 7.2b. Before the cut, the domestic deficit is riding at some NIS 1b. to NIS 2b. above the target figure of NIS 7.909b., according to the Treasury.

"We decided not to cut more because NIS 600m. will bring us close to our target, we are in the middle of or even approaching the end of the year, and we didn't want to exacerbate the slowdown which a larger cut may have done," the Treasury source said.

Among the Treasury considerations in compiling the cut proposals were estimates that there will be an NIS 5b. to NIS 5.5b. shortfall in revenues and an NIS 4b. to NIS 5b. underspend in government expenditure. The revenues' shortfall includes NIS

3.5b. in customs and VAT payments and NIS 1b. from income and other direct taxes. The government underspent some NIS 3b. in public sector salaries because of the relatively low inflation rate and NIS 1b. on mortgages.

The upshot of this and the NIS 600m. cut, together with the US aid expected in the last quarter, could be that the government meets its overall NIS 9.744b. budget deficit target, or even improves on it, according to the Treasury source.

The NIS 600m. cut comprises an across-the-board 0.9% in all ministries other than Defense and Health, where the cut will be 0.6%.

The additional NIS 200m. cut

will be levied at 0.26% in all ministries.

Each ministry will have to decide by Thursday where to make the cuts. The Treasury will then suggest any changes before the proposals are presented to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval.

The Treasury pointed out yesterday that closing all the ministerial offices in Tel Aviv would immediately save NIS 10m.

Aside from reducing the 1997 budget deficit, the cut means next year's budget base will be lower by NIS 600m.

Assuming the cabinet reaches agreement tonight, attention will turn to the 1998 budget, on Sunday in the first of three cabinet debates.



Talk of the trade

Two traders talk on the floor of the German bourse in Frankfurt yesterday. Bourse trading was interrupted for about 90 minutes due to technical difficulties but the DAX index later fell 88.13 points to 4,108.40 points. (Reuters)

IAI in \$120m. bid to sell satellite to Vietnam

By STEVE RODAN

Israel Aircraft Industries is competing with five foreign companies to supply a communications satellite to Vietnam, officials and industry sources said yesterday.

The contacts, they said, began more than a year ago during the visit of IAI executives to Vietnam and intensified during the June 12-16 visit to that country by Communications Minister Limor Livnat. A decision on the satellite purchase is expected by the end of the year. Vietnam wants the satellite delivered by 1999.

"Vietnam is now in the stage of a feasibility study," an IAI executive said. "They are looking for what suits their needs best. Meanwhile, we are maintaining contact."

Industry sources said the other companies competing to supply Vietnam with a communications satellite are Hughes Space and Communications International Inc., Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space, and Loral Space Systems, all of the US; and Matra Marconi Space and Alcatel, both of France.

An IAI executive said his company is offering the Amos HP (high power) satellite, estimated to cost between \$120 million and \$130m. The Amos HP is a smaller satellite than any of the other competitors, with the exception of the HS-376 offered by Hughes, the executive said. The Hughes satellite is estimated to cost \$250 million.

"I am sure that they will choose a small satellite," the IAI executive said. "They have asked us for a comprehensive proposal."

The industry sources said IAI's chief competitor appears to be the Hughes HS-376. They said Israeli executives have presented data that show that the Amos HP is more powerful than the Hughes system.

The sources said the key to winning the Vietnam contract depends on whether that country will decide to buy a small and inexpensive satellite. "The minute they decide to go to a bigger satellite, Israel is out of the picture," an industry source said.

Magic to launch cutback plan

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Magic Software Enterprises will undergo a restructuring program, including a "significant" reduction of locally based international marketing activities and the moving of one of the top three senior executive positions to the US, spokesman Ilan

Vagenshtein said yesterday. The developer of software tools is moving six marketing positions to the US and has given locally based employees the option to relocate.

Over the past few quarters, the company has not achieved its sales targets for the US, forcing it to rethink its strategic approach to the

market with the greatest potential. "Magic realized that in order to sell in the States, senior management has to be in the US," Vagenshtein said. The company will also make changes in the structure of its US operations.

While Magic's US-based headquarters are in California, most of the company's clients are on the East Coast, making it difficult to achieve sales targets. "For these kinds of sales you need face-to-face contact," said Abe Finkelstein, an analyst at Josephthal, Lyon & Ross in Washington, DC.

Based in Herzliya, Magic's tools are used by programmers to develop software applications without having to write the lines of computer code required in conventional programming. Half the company's 300 employees are based in Israel.

Currency liberalization measures take effect this week

By DAVID HARRIS

Recipients of German reparations and foreign pensions may invest them abroad, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

This, together with a series of other currency liberalization measures, came into force this week, following an agreement on the package between the central bank, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and former finance minister Dan Meridor.

Other relaxations of currency controls include raising the limit on provident fund investments abroad, permitting the use of a foreign broker for international investments, and increasing the amount transferable to Israelis abroad and foreigners.

The changes are a part of the central bank's ongoing policy of

liberalization. By this time next year, this policy will mean virtually all restrictions will have been lifted, the central bank says.

The detailed list of new measures includes:

- Israeli citizens in receipt of reparations from Germany or foreign pensions may now invest them in foreign bank accounts. This relaxation is not being retroactively applied.
- Institutional investors (i.e. provident funds and mutual funds) may use the services of a foreign broker to oversee financial transactions overseas. Until now such deals only have been permissible via a domestic commercial bank.
- The limit on provident fund investments abroad has been raised from two percent of their total assets to 5%.
- Mutual funds that do not spe-

cialize in foreign investments may now place up to 50% of their assets abroad, as opposed to the 10% permissible to date. This brings these funds in line with their specialist equivalents.

• Israeli companies now may hold foreign securities and currency received for exports in overseas banks worth 15% of total sales or 25% of paid-up capital, whichever is the larger sum. This replaces the previous sums of 5% of sales and 10% of capital.

• Israelis may now deal in futures abroad for any purpose. Companies (excluding insurers) are permitted to do this via a foreign broker. Until now companies could only trade in futures to hedge risks stemming from import and export deals, and deposits, loans, and possessions of foreign securities.

Ben-Gurion traffic rises 13% during May-June

By HAIM SHAPIRO

As foreign tourists continue to stay away in droves, Israelis are travelling abroad in ever-increasing numbers. Civil Aviation Administration figures show an increase of 13 percent in the

number of mostly local passengers going through Ben-Gurion Airport during May and June.

"The increase in May and June is almost certainly that of Israelis going abroad and not tourists," said Avi Rosental, director of the Hotel Association. "During the first half of 1997, there was a drop of 13 percent in the number of tourists coming to Israel."

The figures are especially significant in light of the fact that airlines which specialize in carrying Israelis abroad showed the largest gains.

Turkish Airlines, whose passenger load consists almost exclusively of Israelis vacationing in Turkey, led the foreign airlines in the number of passengers with 53,334, an increase of 20 percent over the same period last year.

In second place was Lufthansa, with 44,539, 16 percent more than during May and June of 1996. Lufthansa spokesman Yitzhak Zaroni, said that during

the first half of 1997, there was a drop of 25 percent in the number of German tourists coming to Israel, while at the same time, the airline reported an increase of 12.2 percent in the number of passengers during the first six months of the year.

El Al and its subsidiary, Sundor, carried 471,131 passengers during the two-month period and showed a 14 percent jump in the number of passengers carried. Company spokesman Nachman Kleiman said that the number represented, for the most part, Israelis travelling abroad, although it did include some tour groups. The increase in the number of Israelis flying El Al abroad came as a welcome surprise to the company, which had looked forward to a bleak summer season.

Even more impressive was the performance of Arkia, which showed a 21 percent jump in the number of passengers carried in comparison with the same two months of 1996.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.925	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.700	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.7.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rate**
Currency basket	3.7850	3.8258	---	3.7851
U.S. dollar	3.4848	3.5512	3.43	3.5240
German mark	1.9458	1.9770	1.91	1.9651
Pound sterling	5.9553	6.0508	5.75	6.0084
French franc	5.5758	5.6349	0.59	0.5815
Japanese yen (100)	3.0134	3.0621	2.98	3.0425
Dutch florin	1.7886	1.7855	1.88	1.7483
Swiss franc	2.3824	2.4008	2.32	2.3870
Swedish krona	0.4500	0.4573	0.44	0.4542
Norwegian krone	0.4708	0.4704	0.46	0.4768
Danish krone	0.5109	0.5182	0.50	0.5138
Finnish mark	0.6588	0.6685	0.64	0.6588
Canadian dollar	2.5455	2.5885	2.50	2.5880
Australian dollar	2.5840	2.5959	2.54	2.6122
S. African rand	0.7838	0.7783	0.82	0.7704
Belgian franc (10)	0.9423	0.9575	0.92	0.9517
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7859	2.8188	2.71	2.7882
Italian lire (1000)	1.9978	2.0301	1.98	2.0186
Jordanian dinar	4.9292	5.0888	4.86	5.0217
Egyptian pound	0.8940	1.0800	0.89	1.1101
ECU	3.8389	3.8018	---	3.8782
Irish punt	5.2282	5.3128	5.12	5.2744
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3096	2.3469	2.28	2.3514
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Over-the-counter remedy

Asia is looking to Taiwan for a Nasdaq exchange of its own

By ALICE HUNG

TAIPEI — Taiwan's fledgling over-the-counter stock market has big ambitions — it looks to the Nasdaq as a role model and hopes someday to surpass the giant high-tech US exchange.

Given the securities exchange's blazing growth in recent years, the goal is not completely out of reach. Before the OTC exchange inaugurated a computerized trading system in 1994, it comprised a mere 11 listings mired in a backwater of illiquidity, with average daily turnover of just T\$2 million (US \$71,600).

Today, the eight-year-old OTC has 96 listed companies. Turnover averages well over T\$10b. (\$358m.).

That's five times Japan's over-the-counter turnover and rivals some of the world's major national exchanges, though it is only a tenth of Taiwan's main exchange, where daily turnover regularly tops T\$200b. (\$7.2b.).

The OTC's turnover hit a record T\$20b. (\$716m.) several times in July. OTC market capitalization has soared to T\$427b. (\$9.68b.) from a puny T\$4.2b. (\$151m.) in 1994.

"I believe such stunning growth is second to none in the world. The record is unprecedented," says Chao Hsiao-feng, chairman of the Taiwan Over-the-Counter Securities Exchange.

"This is a young market with unlimited upside potential," Chao told Reuters in a recent interview.

Chao said that such potential, lies mainly with the island's hundreds, perhaps thousands, of promising but little-known electronics firms — the hottest sector in Taiwan's economy. As the government vows to turn Taiwan into a "technology island," the OTC aims to become a Nasdaq-style exchange that actively fosters futuristic high-technology development.

Fewer than one-third of OTC-listed firms now are in the electronics business, but Chao is confident that high-tech listings will expand rapidly.

By the end of 1997, around 150 firms — many in the electronics sector — will be traded in the OTC, with a further 110 firms being screened for listings, he added.

"Our people make door-to-door calls to small and medium companies, especially high-technology ones, around the island to encourage their interest in listing on the OTC," Chao said.

"Maybe one day what now is a little-known small company will grow and prosper in the OTC market — just like Microsoft did in the Nasdaq," Chao said.

"One day, we hope our exchange can surpass Nasdaq," said Allan Huang, fund manager for Taiwan's first OTC-only closed-end fund. Huang believes the exchange is heading in the right direction.

"We think it's the right approach

to follow the Nasdaq model and make the OTC market the cradle of Taiwan's high-technology firms," said Huang, of Taiwan's Foremost Investment Services.

In the future, electronics will be the dominant sector in the OTC market, replacing securities and banking shares. Once this becomes the case, it will significantly boost the interest of foreign investors," Huang said.

Until now, foreign investors have shown limited interest in Taiwan's junior market, seen by foreign fund managers as lacking the critical mass of

TRADING FLOORS



analysts' estimate that the OTC exchange has attracted less than four percent, or about T\$10b. (\$358m.), of foreigners' total Taiwan stock investments.

"Illiquidity has been a main concern," said Oliver Fang, head of institutional sales at National Securities.

"Professional foreign institutions normally have a standard evaluation formula to help them make investment decisions. When they apply the formula to companies in Taiwan's OTC, not many qualify," Fang said. "Many are too small and can be manipulated easily."

Companies that are capitalized at as little as T\$50m. (\$1.79m.) and show even modest profitability are

eligible to apply for OTC listing.

By contrast, the main stock exchange requires capitalization of T\$200m. (\$7.17m.) for main-board high-tech shares and T\$300m. (\$10.75m.) for others.

Chairman Chao counters that small firms, too, can have sound financials and says his exchange uses strict criteria to ensure no laggards qualify. What's more, he said, small companies have far greater potential to grow compared to big firms.

"We believe a company's performance depends not on its size, but on whether its structure is healthy and solid," he said.

In the OTC's brief history, only one company, Cheng-I Food, was forced to suspend trading due to financial difficulties.

"Cheng-I was a rare case," Chao added.

Rules enacted in July allow the market to downgrade troubled firms before delisting them, mollifying critics who had said its old, instant-delisting rule was unfair to investors and a barrier to healthy development.

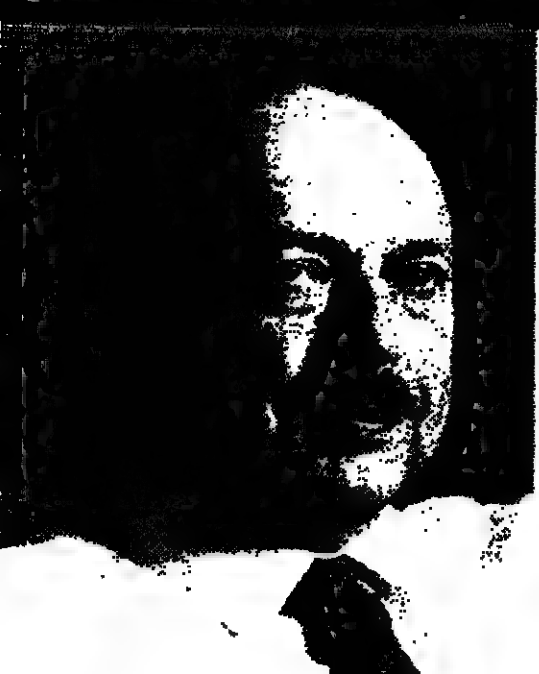
Huang of Foremost said he expected more institutional investors — foreign and domestic alike — to participate in the OTC to tap the market's rapid expansion.

"With market scale expanding and liquidity increasing, the long-term profit outlook in the OTC market is very, very promising," Huang said.

(Reuters Business News)

PEOPLE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



division of the Israel Manufacturers Association (IMA). He replaces Dedi Lederman, who has completed a two-year term. Bakshi is the managing director and chairman of the board of Lodzia Rotex and chairman of the board of Argaman Industries. In the past, he served as chairman of the board of the Postal Authority and as a member of the Tel Aviv Municipal Council, where he chaired the economics committee. At the IMA, he headed the economics and taxes committee and chaired the supervisory committee.

Moshe Bakshi, 28, has been appointed professional manager of Super-Push, a company that focuses on marketing campaigns and sales promotions through special events. He previously worked in the Tel Aviv Municipality's events department.

Raphael Cohen is the new head of the Interior Ministry's Population Administration, replacing Yosef Tuv, who has retired after 47 years as a civil servant. Cohen previously served as a senior advisor to the Interior Minister. Tuv, who joined the Ministry on July 1, 1949, started as an information clerk and worked his way up to senior positions. In 1967, he headed the move to provide ID cards for the residents of East Jerusalem. He also opened the first population administration office in Judea and Samaria. At the changing of the guard ceremony, Interior Minister Eli Shussan lauded Tuv's lasting contributions to the way in which the administration functions.

The Bank of Israel has announced that Danny Yaviv, deputy manager of the bank's monetary department, has been appointed the Israel representative on the team that is establishing a regional bank in Cairo.

David Blumberg has succeeded Ya'acov Lifshitz as chairman of the Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Corporation. Lifshitz, 52, who holds a business management degree from the Hebrew University, has held several senior positions in banking and finance organizations. He is currently chairman of the board of directors and chairman of the management committee of the Bank of Jerusalem. Blumberg's previous appointments have included general manager of Bank Mizrahi, general manager of Bank Tefahot and a member of the advisory committee to the Bank of Israel. He also sits on the governing boards of several public institutions and institutions of higher learning.

Businessman and community leader Ist Leibler (above), who after last week's Maccabiah tragedy loomed tall as Australian Jewry's chief spokesperson, has sold his multimillion-dollar Jetset Travel network to New Zealand Air. This will leave him free to spend most of his time in Israel. Leibler said in Jerusalem last week. Leibler, who is chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress and past president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, plans to spend at least nine months a year in Israel and will devote himself primarily to educational endeavors. An ardent advocate for Jewish education, Leibler is one of the prime investors in Judaica Multimedia Israel Ltd., which has produced the CD-ROM edition of the Encyclopedia Judaica.

Qin Ke Chen will serve as the bureau chief in Israel for the prestigious Chinese daily *Guang Ming*, which is the first Chinese newspaper to be represented here. Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, has been operating locally for over a year, and there is talk that Chinese Radio will also open an office in Israel.

Veteran textile manufacturer Yair Rotlevi, 63, has been elected chairman of the Textile and Fashion

OBITUARY

International business tycoon and philanthropist Jack Liberman, who had major investments in Israel, died last week at the age of 74 in Melbourne, Australia, where he had consistently been listed among the wealthiest 200 people on the island continent. Liberman suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the past four years. Born in Poland, Liberman and his family fled to Russia during World War II, and in 1948, migrated to Australia, where he initially dealt in scrap metal. As his fortune grew, he began investing in textiles, food and real estate. His sons Boris and Leon later joined him in the business. In 1992, Leon, his wife, Lee, and their three children moved to Jaffa to oversee the family's Israeli interests which included Paz Petrochemicals. A year later, on a visit back to Australia, where he was being treated for heart trouble, Leon collapsed and died at age 45. The Liberman empire, comprised of huge real-estate holdings, supermarkets, pharmaceuticals, bakeries and car-import agencies, extended from Australia to Europe, Israel and the US.



THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

28.7 The Third International Conference on Jewish Onomastics (the study of names) will open at Bar-Ilan University on July 28 and on July 30 will join forces with the 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University, Mount Scopus. Conference speakers will discuss the preservation and changes of Jewish names from antiquity till the present in Israel and the lands of Jewish dispersion.

28.7 How individual companies will be affected by policy changes on the rate of exchange and the liberalization of foreign-currency regulations will be the subject of a conference organized by the Israel Manufacturers Association, the Israel Export Institute and the First International Bank. The venue is the Mosheviat Hall at IMA headquarters, 16th floor, Industry House, 29 Hamered Street, Tel Aviv. To register, call (03) 514-2808.

31.7 The New Reality of Palestinian-Israeli Relations will be discussed at a late-afternoon seminar coordinated by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and the Israel Friends of the Tel Aviv University. The event will be held in the Cohen-Porter Building on the TAU campus. Speakers include Dr. Mark Heller, senior Jaffee researcher; Dr. Khalid

Shikaki, director of the Center for Palestinian Research and Studies, Nablus; Maj. Gen. (res.) Dan Rothchild, former coordinator of the Government's Activities in the Territories and Yechiel Leiter, executive director of the Yehsa Council's Foreign Desk.

31.7 State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat will open the Jewish Law Seminar on Creating Wealth, which is being held at the Holyland Hotel, Jerusalem. The three-day seminar, under the aegis of the Justice Ministry, will focus on reclaiming debts and the have and have not of assuming a friend's debts. Speakers will include retired Supreme Court judges Dov Levin and Zvi Tal; Prof. Irwin Cotler of McGill University; Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson, rector of the Hebrew University; Prof. Nahum Rackover, deputy legal advisor to the government; Judge Gershon Gorman; attorney Aviad Hachohen and MK Shaul Yahalom, chairman of the Knesset's Law and Constitution Committee. To register, call (02) 670-8552.

31.7 The Founding Conference of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy, organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Israel Manufacturers Association, will take place at the Dan Panorama Convention Center, Tel Aviv, in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Participants will include Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky, Finance Minister Ya'acov Peres, IMA President Dan Propper, Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and CMECS President Dr. Yigal Weinberg. The conference will focus on a competitive strategy for Israeli and Middle East industry. To register, call (03) 510-4441.

31.7 Liberalization in Foreign Currency and the Changing Exchange Rate is the topic of a yet another conference, this one sponsored by Ma'ariv Congresses at Gan Oranim. Senior banking and investment managers will be among the speakers.

25.9 Medpartenariat, the annual business partnership conference to encourage joint ventures and partnerships between medical product companies in Europe and the Middle East, will take place in Tunis this year. Some 300 Tunisian companies, plus 800 companies from some 25 other countries, are expected to participate in the two-day conference. Representatives of Israeli companies who wish to attend should contact Mickey Admon at the Israel Export Institute, (03) 514-2809.

MOTORING

Model obsession

A local collector confesses to his love affair with scale-sized autos

By JOEL GORDON

Last week, Kobi Warshai of Tel Aviv, purchased a brand-new BMW.

For many months he had been undecided about whether to get the BMW, a Ford Mustang or a Volvo, but in the end he chose the BMW because, "its finish is better." He proudly brought his new car home to show his wife and three children. Then he carefully wiped it down and placed it in his display cabinet, alongside the rest of his collection of 1,500 model automobiles.

Warshai, 47, is one of the country's leading collectors of scale-model automobiles. He is the chairman of the Israel Model Automobile Collectors Club — a body that received a boost in recent years from the aliyah from the former Soviet Union.

Warshai and his fellow collectors are not simply Peter Pan-like schoolboys who never grew up. There are tremendous investment possibilities for the wise collector of model automobiles. Some models increase in value in the same way as rare paintings. For example, a British-made "Dinky Toy" model of a vehicle from the 1940s or 1950s could be purchased in those days for a few shillings (less than a dollar). Today the same model in good condition can fetch more than \$1,000.

Warshai was born in Tel Aviv in 1950 into what he calls a bourgeoisie family. He still runs his family's suitcase shop in the city center. "As a boy I was always receiving gifts of model automobiles from family and friends," Warshai remembers. "Some children are natural collectors, and I built up a huge collection of model cars, many of them original Dinky and Matchbox

toys that flooded the country as a result of the British influence. If I had kept my original collection I would be a wealthy man today.

However, most of it disappeared when I went to the army, moved houses and married. I also developed a new hobby, building model aircraft.

About 15 years ago, my eldest son became interested in building aircraft, and a child psychologist told me it would not be good for me to compete with my son. I looked for a new hobby, and I returned to collecting model automobiles.

At that time, recalls Warshai, there were very few genuine models in the country, only toys. He wrote for catalogs to the world-famous companies — Corgi and Matchbox of the UK (Dinky by this time had closed down), Burago and Rio of Italy, Shabak and Gama and Schuco of Germany. He soon discovered that the fleets of each company were so vast he should specialize in one field. He chose buses, and today he has one of the finest collections of scale-model buses in the world, valued at more than \$50,000.

"There are collectors who specialize in racing cars, in cabs, in American-made 1950s cars, in Volkswagen Beetles and in Ferraris," he explains. "I concentrate on buses, although I do often buy other vehicles, hence my recent purchase of the BMW."

Warshai's bus collection includes not only London double-deckers and US school buses, but 1940s and 1950s Egged buses produced by the now defunct Garnda toy company at Kibbutz Beit Hanassi in the Upper Galilee. He also has a number of Russian buses that he claims are extremely well-made vehicles. "Soon after the major influx of the

Russian aliyah in 1991-92, I started inspecting the wares at street markets, and I found some terrific scale models of all types that the olim had brought with them. Apparently the hobby was highly developed in the former Soviet Union.

"At that time, says Warshai, "there were only about 20 serious local collectors, and we had formed a rudimentary, makeshift club. At any rate, I advertised in the local Russian-language press and attracted about 60 former residents of the USSR to a meeting. We formed the Israel Model Automobile Collectors Club."

The club meets once a month and the members exchange information and catalogs and bring models to swap, "just like eager schoolboys in a playground," according to Warshai. Most importantly, the club can order in bulk from the world's model manufacturers and thus obtain better prices and service. "The former Russian collectors are in heaven in Israel," says Warshai. "In their old country, they were confined to collecting Russian-made models. Now, they have the run of all the major 400 companies, which make top-quality scale models of vehicles ranging from ambulances to tanks to commercial trucks to motor scooters."

How can would-be collectors tell the difference between a toy and a genuine scale model? First of all, says Warshai, by the name of the company. The most famous maker of scale-model cars was the UK's Dinky, which started production in 1937 and closed down about 20 years later. At least six Chinese- and Hong Kong-based firms are now called "Dinky" and one should beware of imitations, warns Warshai. In the meantime,

Dinky's place at the top has been overtaken by Italy's Burago, Japan's Kyosho, Italy's Rio and many others. The Israel Model Automobile Collectors Club can supply lists of the top manufacturers.

The best buys, says Warshai, are the so-called "limited edition" models that have a certificate of authenticity in the box. The most popular and sought-after scale is 1:43. Warshai emphasizes the importance of keeping models in good condition.

"A small scratch can make the difference between a few hundred dollars when it comes to selling the model," if possible, continues Warshai, the model should be kept either in its original box or else in a protected display cabinet.

A spin-off industry of display cabinets for model cars has developed, and these accessories are advertised in magazines and catalogs. Even if the cars are taken out of the packaging, the original boxes should be preserved, says Warshai. "This adds to the car's value."

Warshai concludes: "Even though collecting model cars is a secure investment, the majority of collectors indulge in the hobby for fun and not for money."

"Some adult collectors may feel slightly embarrassed about their hobby. The importance of belonging to a club is that you realize that you are not a freak or an overgrown child. There are about four million serious collectors throughout the world."

He adds with a grin, "Model-auto collecting is a respected part of the motoring culture. In Israel, at least, it is safer than actually driving." Warshai can be contacted at (03) 605-7616.

Streets ahead of the competition

The popular BBC television program *Top Gear* recently held a nationwide survey in the UK to determine the "best automobile buy of the year." The survey was held among the general population, not among the magazine's readers. In other words, the voters were "99 percent the type of motorists who only want to get safely from A to B and one percent driving fans," according to the program's presenter, jovial Jeremy Clarkson.

The Toyota Corolla won the poll streets ahead of the opposition. This did not surprise anyone — in most countries, the trusty Corolla is adored by Mr. and Mrs. Average Motorist as much as it is hailed by mechanics for its reliability. Toyota first launched the Corolla in 1966. In more than 30 years, the Japanese company has churned out more than 23.5 million Corollas, making it the best-selling automobile of all time.

You can't please everybody, though, and the Corolla has acquired an image among the fast-lane set for being "dull to drive." Even *Top*



Gear once pronounced it "about as exciting as an income tax form." The people at Toyota are perfectionists and have made many attempts to get rid of their "dull" image. For example, souped-up Corollas have been entered in numerous rally and racing contests. The Corollas have done well in the contests, but the boring image endures, continually accentuated by the more red-blooded motoring magazines. Nevertheless, Toyota

keeps plugging away to acquire a more exciting sheen.

The 1998 Corolla that went into local showrooms last week has been given a stylish, innovative design. The front grille, honeycombed with holes, resembles a gigantic, aluminum piece of Swiss cheese. The headlights are small and round, like those on UK-made sports cars of the '60s. The rear lights are also ultra-trendy.

Regardless of its appearance or driving performance, the Corolla has never been a best-selling car in Israel because, in our price-conscious market, it is priced above similar Japanese-made 1,600cc family cars.

The new Corolla is no exception: the versions available range from a four-door, manual-shift sedan costing NIS 83,900 to a five-door automatic-shift station wagon at NIS 99,000. All models have the 1,597cc, 111 horsepower engine of the old Corolla. Two front airbags and ABS brakes are standard equipment on all models.

— J.G.

**Drive carefully!
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Israel takes 6 taekwondo golds

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

They might have been the heaviest hitters, but the heavyweight finalists failed to make much impact last night on the crowd gathered in Jerusalem's Malha Hall for the Maccabiah's first-ever taekwondo competition.

Instead, the show was stolen by the female competitors fighting earlier in the day and by the demonstration events staged by the Israeli team. In fact, it was the Israelis who dominated the day-long tournament from start to finish, winning 6 gold medals — much to their own surprise.

According to Ky Tu, the Danish black-belt who has adopted the Israeli team and has become its coach, the most Israel had hoped for was four spots in the finals. But the Israelis, fighting on their home turf and watched over by an all-Israeli crew of referees and judges, simply overwhelmed the competition. Despite a strong showing by the Australian combatants, Israeli women took home four golds and their male counterparts two — a record so good that some of the other teams left grumbling about biased judging.

The much anticipated final event, the fight for heavyweight gold, came down to George Weissfish of the US and Michel Mallul of France. The latter — a World and Europe middleweight champion — was the clear favorite. Once on the mat, however, he found himself unable to penetrate the much greater reach of

the American.

To the crowd's disappointment, there was little contact throughout. The match amounted to nine lackluster minutes as the athletes cautiously circled each other. No blows were landed during the first of three, three-minute rounds. During the second, however, Weissfish struck the Frenchman with a solid round-kick and repeated this feat in the third. Mallul managed to land a single cut-kick of his own, but earned a blow to the throat while trying to catch one of Weissfish's legs.

By the end of the fight, the score was 2-1, but was lowered to 0-0 owing to penalties on both sides. After a lengthy conference, the judges picked Weissfish as a better all-around fighter and gave him the gold.

And so it was the earlier events which remained the day's most dramatic. Especially popular was the demonstration staged by the Israeli exhibition team. As the theme from Rocky pumped over the loudspeakers, the Israelis performed a variety of stunts, including fight-acrobatics and the inevitable board-breaking. For their finale, the Israeli coaches smashed random objects — including a huge ceramic urn and a beer bottle — on and with each other's bodies.

Speaking after the competition, Eui Yong Chung, Korea's ambassador to Israel, thanked the athletes and Israel for making the Korean national sport a part of the Maccabiah. He gave a special salute to the large Australian contingent, as did the other speakers throughout the awards ceremony, and joined the crowd in a moment of silence.

Goldberg siblings reach squash semis

By HEATHER CHAIT

Local players Ronen Goldberg and his sister Jackie reached the semifinals of the men and women's squash event yesterday, a sport widely associated with Anglo-Saxons.

National champion Ronen beat Sean Mann (South Africa) 3-0 and Jackie beat Leanne Sier (US) 3-2 in their quarter-final matches.

The other three names left in the men's open division are Daniel Ezra (UK) who put out Yair Feld 3-0, Grant Isaacs (SA) who defeated Saar Justman 3-2 and Amir Kivon who beat Isaac Rome 3-0.

In the women's division, Lee Trevis ousted Dafna Wegner 3-1, Vivien Weiner (Australia) beat Susan Green (US) 3-1 and Jacqueline Vadia (Australia) topped Ivi Pochoda (US) 3-1.

Yona-Rachmanov is the only local player to reach today's semis

in the men's seniors class. He beat top seed Gal Levran 3-0. Along with him are Jack Stein (SA) who triumphed over Derek Bass (UK) 3-2, Jeffrey Deutsch (US) who beat Richard Margolis (Australia) 3-0 and Martin Kempe (SA) who triumphed over Andrew Brog (US) 3-0.

Nadine Mizrahi is Rachmanov's counterpart in the women's seniors, after beating Denise McConie (Australia) 3-0. Other winners were Laima Feldman (Australia) against Susan Rose (US) 3-2, Elaine Smaller (Australia) who beat Debra Hodis (US) 3-0 and Jill Segal (US) who beat Leslie Kimerling (US) 3-0.

South Africa won the group event on Sunday beating Israel 2-1 in the final. Australia and England took third and fourth places respectively.

Today's semifinals begin at Herzliya at 9:00 with tomorrow's finals in Ra'anana, also at 9:00.

Canada to face Mexico in softball finals

By ELI PINCHOVSKI and RICHARD DUFFY

Canada earned itself a place in the softball finals by beating the USA 7-1 at Kibbutz Gezer last night.

The Canadians will now face Mexico in a best-of-three final beginning today at 15:00.

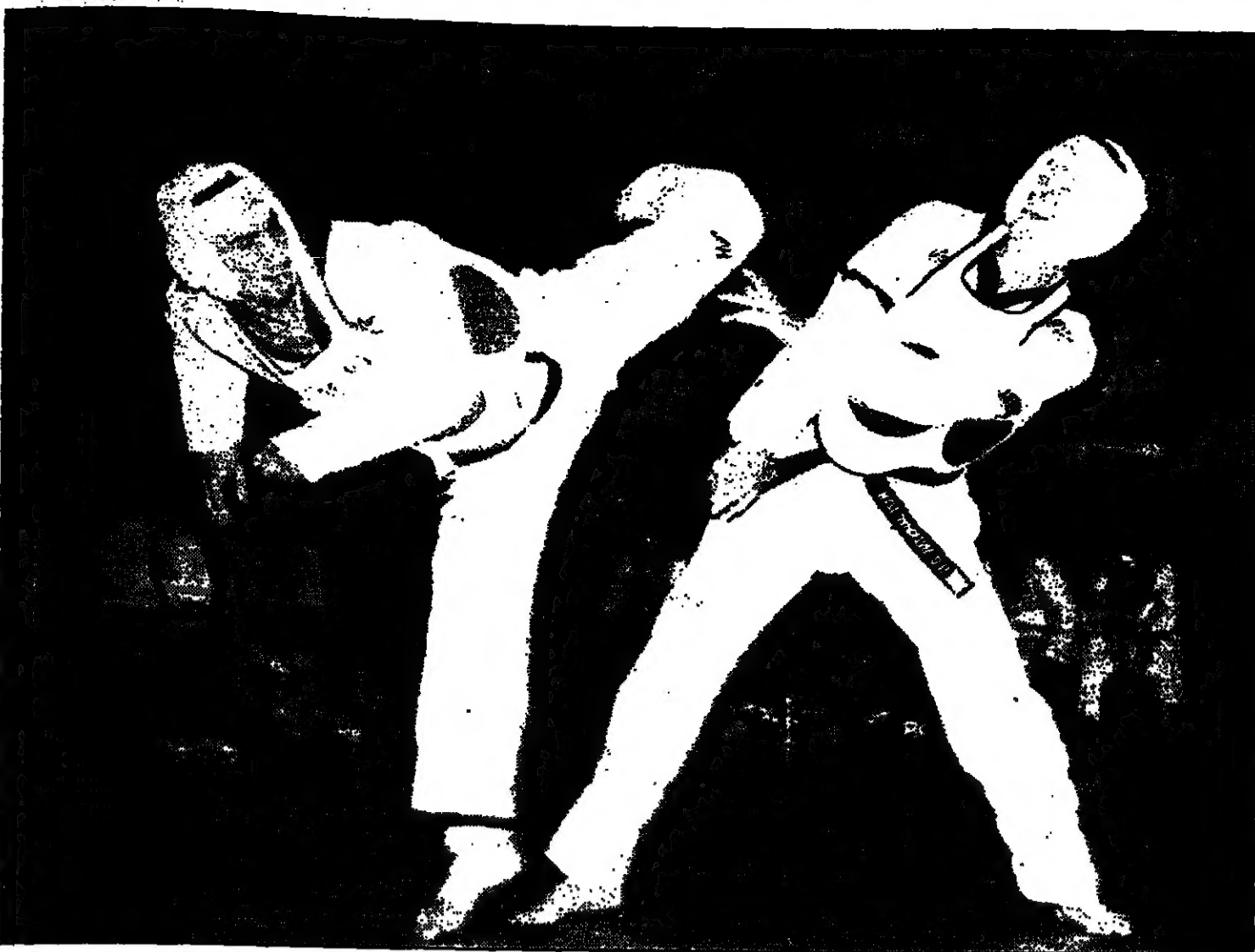
The game was scoreless until the fifth inning when Canada took the lead with a clutch hit by pinch hitter Steve Kushner, scoring two runs.

In the next frame, Canada exploded five more times featuring a bases-loaded triple by Ricky Green.

Canada's Mark Bendahan fanned nine, giving up no earned runs.

The USA scored in the bottom of the sixth with a base hit plus an error.

Workhorse David Blackburn took the loss for the USA.



HIGH KICKERS — The USA's George Weissfish (r) parries a kick from France's Michel Mallul in the heavyweight taekwondo final. Weissfish took the gold.

Aussie Glick tops Zimbabwe's Treger in bowls

By NORMAN SPIRO

In the men's singles 8-rounds lawn bowls round robin competition, Australia's Pepe Glick won all his three games, although very narrowly (25-24), against Zimbabwe's Ruvyn Treger, collecting three shots on the last end for a thrilling finish.

South Africa's Dannie Keet and Okkie Fine

each won three of four games — as did Israel's Jeff Rabkin and George Kaminsky, the latter coming through to beat England's Bennie Wainstein 25-24, after trailing 16-5.

In the women's singles, Chaya Prager of Israel made a great stand winning all three games.

With three rounds completed in the men's fours, the only unbeaten side is Australia (Rod Davis), Mackie Glasser's South African team

won two of their three games, with two wins on the last end. Raymond Sher's team (Israel) did well to win two games, losing one by one shot to Glasser.

In the women's fours, Molly Skudowitz (Israel) and Avis Lampert (South Africa) have each won one game and peeled one, while Australia's Denise Brick peeled both games, the last one with a last bowl against Skudowitz's side.

Today's Maccabiah schedule

Badminton Bet Dani: 14:00

finals. Basketball (men) Jerusalem, Malha: 19:00, 21:00 semifinals.

Wingate: 17:00, 21:00 semifinals. Basketball (women) Wingate: 19:00 finals.

Bridge Jerusalem Gate Hotel: 10:00, 13:00, 15:20, and 21:00

finals. Chess Jerusalem Gate Hotel: 15:00 round 8, 15:00 round 7 (open).

Crick Ashdod: 10:00 S. Africa-Australia.

Fencing Hader Yosef: 10:00 preliminaries, 16:00 finals (W), 17:00 finals (M).

Field Hockey — men Hader Yosef: 09:00 Australia-Great Britain, 16:00 The Netherlands-Israel.

Field hockey — women Hader Yosef: 07:30 Israel-S. Africa.

Golf Caesarea: from 08:00. Handball Wingate: 20:00 finals.

Mini Soccer Yad Eliyahu: 16:00 7th-8th place, 17:30 5th-6th place, 19:00 3rd-4th place, 20:30 finals.

Netball Herzliya (Makif School): 18:00 3rd and 4th place, 19:30 finals.

Rugby Herzliya: 17:00 7th-8th place, 18:30 5th-6th place, 20:00 3rd-4th place, 21:00 finals.

Soccer Bat Yam: 19:00 and 21:00 semifinals.

Softball Kibbutz Gezer: 15:00 Canada-Mexico final (first game of best-of-three); 18:00 bronze medal, Israel-USA; 21:00 final (game 2).

Squash Herzliya: from 09:00 semifinals.

Swimming Tel Aviv University: from 19:00.

Table Tennis Bet Hahohem: from 09:00 and from 15:45.

Tennis from 09:00 quarterfinals (M/W), from 16:00 semifinals (M/W), from 18:00 mixed pairs.

Ten-Pin Bowling Rishon LeZion: 11:00 and 12:00.

Volleyball (men) Kfar Sava (Katznelson High School): 20:30 finals.

Maccabiah Hotline: 03-671-5999

Compiled by Ammanjah de Vries

Correction: Yosef Gat on Sunday set the Israeli 200-meter backstroke record of 2:03.14 and not as stated.

Jerusalem march to precede closing ceremony at Latrun

Five border policemen who excelled in the rescue operation of the Australian delegation under the collapsed bridge before the opening ceremony will lead the Maccabiah delegations in Jerusalem on Thursday in a march, which will begin at 16:30 from Safra Square. Following this, the delegations will travel to Latrun for the closing ceremony which will begin at 20:30.

A website has been put up allowing members of the public to express their support for the Australian team. The address is <http://www.arw.com.au/maccab>. Already over 500 messages of support have been received so far.

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SCOREBOARD

Tour de France — Marco Pantani won the 15th stage yesterday. Germany's Jan Ullrich retains the overall lead.



LEADER OF THE PACK — Canada's David Nemirofsky scored a hat-trick in gold medal win over USA.

Nemirofsky leads Canada past USA for ice hockey gold

By LIONEL GAFFEN

David Nemirofsky scored a hat-trick as Canada beat the USA 6-1 in the ice hockey gold medal game at Menula's Canada Center last night.

Nemirofsky, who plays for the NHL's Florida Panthers, scored the first, fifth and sixth goals of the contest.

Also scoring for the victors were Cory Pecker, Aaron Brand and Jamie Sokolski.

Tallying the lone goal for the USA was Brett Chodorow.

In the bronze medal game last night, Anatoly Nayda scored the winning goal in sudden death overtime to give Ukraine a 9-8 win over Israel.

Israel led for much of the

game, but blew leads of 5-1 and 8-4.

The Ukrainian attack was led by Ramil Yuldashev who had six goals and three assists, including the tying tally to force the overtime.

Scoring for Israel were Oleg Zak (hat-trick), Max Bierbrier, Yaron Orgil, Eli Oosterhuis, Dima Putilov and Lari Bloch.

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Thursday — equities continued to show interest in the market. The Maof Index of 100 stocks rose 0.38% to 302.30. The Mifnim Index of 100 stocks rose 0.29% to 149.3. The exchange rate of the dollar against the sheqel rose 0.003 to 1.9424.

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Rates are valid until AUG 31 1997.

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BAVLI, 3, SPACIOUS, elevator, park view, etc. from October. 03-6042787, 052-459268 (Agent)

BEAUTIFULLY REDECORATED APARTMENTS near sea — short/long term. AUSSIES REALITIES. Tel. 03-546-8738.

NEAR KIKAR HAMEDINA, Sharret St., 3, quiet, elevator, parking, immediate. (Agent) Tel. 03-6042787, 052-459268.

SALES

ZAMALA, BARAK STREET, 130/500, excellent position, private, \$1,200,000. Tel. 03-5278006.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tonight is the last chance for Haifa music-lovers to enjoy the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's stunning concert presentation of Puccini's *Turandot* under the baton of Zubin Mehta, with the superb choir of the Maggio Musicale from Florence. Audrey Sotler is the ice princess and Gagan Gregorian is the prince who solves her riddles. 8:30 at the Haifa Auditorium. The show moves to the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv tomorrow until July 29.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The French Arts Channel (43) puts on theme nights on various bizarre topics from time to time. Tonight's theme is *Pink Hair and the Gold Helmet*, an evening dedicated solely to that stuff on top of our heads we spend so much time and money washing and styling. Starting off, at 10:40, is the camp comedy *Hairspray* (1988), in English with French subtitles. This nostalgic satire of TV teen dance programs in the early '60s, directed by John Waters, features Divine, Debby Harry and many other big names. Following, from 00:10 to 2 will be five short films on various aspects of hair: its erotic features, baldness, black hairdos, military haircuts as a symbol of castration, French hairdressers and more. A must for anyone who spends more than 20 shekels on a haircut.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***PRIVATE PARTS - Based on the autobiography of the rude, crude New York radio personality Howard Stern, Betty Thomas's film is one of the more entertaining bits of celebrity self-aggrandizement to surface in a long time.



Gagan Gregorian stars as the prince in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's concert presentation of Puccini's *Turandot*.

Actually, the movie - which stars Stern as himself - works by means of a clever blend of self-love and self-mockery, as it also further develops the tricky *trompe-l'oeil* technique that he has perfected on his WNBC radio show. To hear Stern tell it, no subject is off limits for on-air discussion. His improvised banter appears to be brutally honest and totally intimate, and his massive public appeal is based on the fact that his honesty knows no bounds. While such total frankness is a fine claim to fame, it is, of course, not true. Stern's straight-talking, wisecracking radio persona is just that - a persona. And if there's one thing that his inspired movie debut makes clear it's that he is, above all, a fantastic actor, a man who has cast himself in the part of soul-bearing vulgarian and thoroughly mastered the role. Featuring a blend of actors and real-life media personalities, as themselves. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

FERNANDO



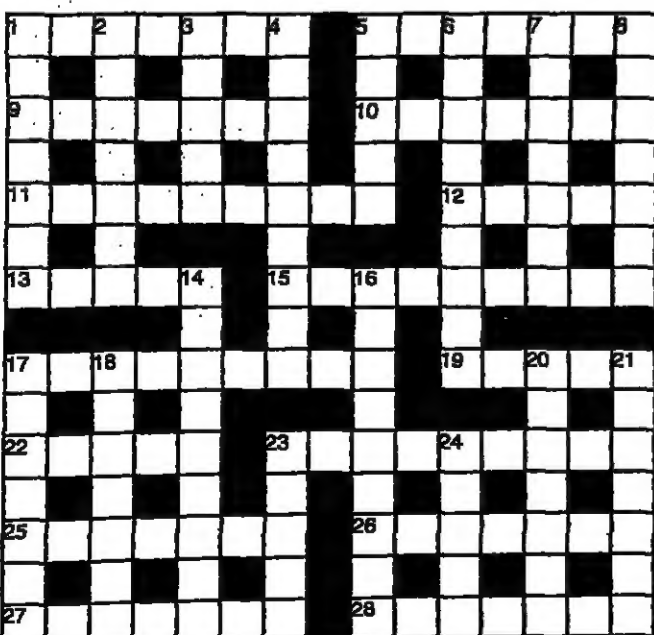
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

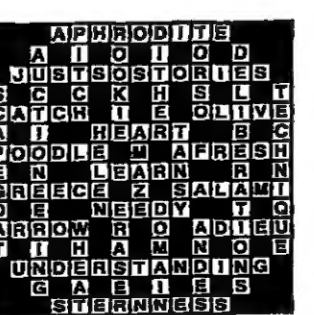
- 1 A garden plot the children litter (7)
- 5 Person set against work with model (7)
- 9 Check heartless rogue joining the crowd (7)
- 10 Distressed by the French charges (7)
- 11 The manufacturer's specification meant dear products (5,4)
- 12 Fellow greeting Latin swell (5)
- 13 Close in the finish - and yet never in doubt (5)
- 15 Control a good man completely put back (9)
- 17 Orders put out for projects (9)
- 19 Blue or quite proper? (5)
- 22 Duck like one's water feature (5)

DOWN

- 23 Introduce new cut (9)
- 25 Getting all straight at the end of the day (7)
- 26 What a worker might well assume is long-term (7)
- 27 The eccentric seek and find so it's told (7)
- 28 Making a point if not dim (7)
- 1 Increase of time spent in jail (7)
- 2 Account for getting out of flat (7)
- 3 Trains first mate, note (5)
- 4 The underworld boss railed when expelled by law (9)
- 5 Church in stone of a rich yellow colour (5)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1. Henry, 2. Grey, 3. Radio, 4. Cuck, 5. Yellow, 6. Yellow, 7. Truth, 8. Wanderer, 9. Scapula, 10. Formal, 11. Prone, 12. Attend, 13. Delay, 14. Wall.

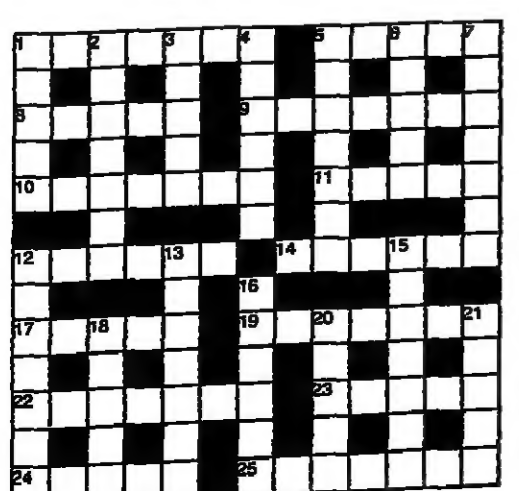
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Mixes up (7)
- 5 Tossed (5)
- 8 Stem (5)
- 9 Shows off (7)
- 10 Entourage (7)
- 11 Portion (5)
- 12 Alfresco meal (6)
- 14 Individual (6)
- 17 Confute (5)
- 19 Fruit plantation (7)
- 22 Quiet (7)
- 23 Relieve (5)
- 24 Depart (5)
- 25 Made certain (7)

DOWN

- 1 Skinfint (5)
- 2 Severe (7)
- 3 Compare (5)
- 4 Undergo (6)
- 5 Walk wearily (7)
- 6 Wash (5)
- 7 Occidental (7)
- 12 Sunshade (7)
- 13 Extreme (7)
- 15 Tintier (7)
- 16 Stick together (6)
- 18 Very light wood (5)
- 20 Stupid (6)
- 21 Wood-nymph (5)



TV

CHANNEL 1

- 6:30 News Flash
- 6:31 News in Arabic
- 6:45 Good Morning Israel
- 17:00 Square One TV
- 17:15 The Album Show
- 18:10 French programs
- 18:30 News in French
- 19:30 News headlines
- 19:35 Coach
- 20:00 Tilt
- 20:30 Encounter
- 21:10 The Nature of Things
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:30 West Beach
- 23:15 Drug Wars

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Cartoons
- 10:00 Eric's World
- 10:30 My Life as a Dog
- 11:00 A Matter of Time
- 11:35 Hot Science
- 12:10 A.J. Time
- 13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
- 15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English

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- 15:30 Zappy Wave
- 15:35 Zappy Wave
- 15:40 Super Ben
- 16:00 Heartbreak High
- 16:45 Super Ben
- 16:50 Zappy Wave
- 16:55 A New Evening
- 17:34 Zappy Wave
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- 20:50 Weekly Lotto draw - live
- 20:55 Mimi Host Meni Pater
- 22:00 The People's Century - part 3
- 19:17 Red Flag
- 22:30 News On
- 23:30 News
- 00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs
- 6:30 Aladdin
- 7:00 Coffee with Tel-Aviv
- 10:00 The Monkey's Discrepancy
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CHANNEL 2

- 6

Netanyahu rejects Sharon election law bid

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday rejected the initiative by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to change the direct elections law so that a majority of 61 MKs would be sufficient to oust the premier without having to dissolve the Knesset and hold new elections.

Under the law, a no-confidence motion needs 61 MKs to pass, but requires new general elections; while 80 MKs are needed to remove the prime minister without dissolving the Knesset.

A bill by MKs Dalia Itzik (Labor) and Anat Maor (Meretz), which would allow the premier to be toppled by a 61 MK majority without dissolving the Knesset, is to be raised for preliminary reading in the plenum tomorrow.

However, if it does not appear to have a majority, the two will probably not raise it. Bills which fail to pass preliminary reading cannot be brought up again

for another six months. Their bill failed six months ago.

Most Meretz and Shas MKs have said they will oppose it.

National Religious Party leader Zevulun Hammer said he is against the proposed law, as are most of his party. Several Labor MKs, including Haim Ramon and Hagai Merom, also said they would not support such a change.

"I greatly value Sharon," said Netanyahu at a meeting of the Likud yesterday. "I also know that his efforts were made, for sure, with a positive intention."

According to an official briefing, Sharon told the Likud MKs that the question "is not whether or not to join political opponents, but whether or not the electoral system is a good one."

He said the current system is not good and should be "improved," because it reduces the power of the Knesset and increases the influence of small parties. Sharon said he did not intend hurting

the prime minister. "The last thing I want is a different government," said Sharon, "but there must be a broad consensus on diplomatic issues."

He denied he had met with Labor MK Shimon Peres to call for a national unity government and said he knows this is "not realistic."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said changing the direct elections law now would not stand up to a test in the High Court. Indeed, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday announced his official legal opinion that a majority of 80 MKs would be required to approve Sharon's initiative.

MK Ze'ev Begin said he had told Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen that "you can't change the rules of the game in the middle," and that any changes made should be in effect only from the next Knesset.

Likud whip Meir Sheerit said the coalition should not use the opposition's initiative to get at the government. "If

there's anything to change, we'll do it ourselves," he said.

Science Minister Michael Eitan (Likud) also rejected the initiative to change the direct elections law in the current Knesset, which he said lacks the moral right to make such a change.

"It would be a victory for negative wheeling and dealing and those pursuing personal interests," Eitan said.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid also said he opposes making the proposed change to the direct elections law.

"We are not the party most interested in having Sharon in the kitchen cabinet and that is what the changes are aimed at," said Sarid. "We have no interest in increasing the blackmail power of the extreme right wing."

Michael Yudelman adds:

Sharon held a series of intensive meetings in the Knesset with Likud "rebel" MKs and Labor MKs to lobby for his proposal. Labor whip Cohen told him he favors the change, but could not

promise the bill would pass tomorrow if it comes to a vote.

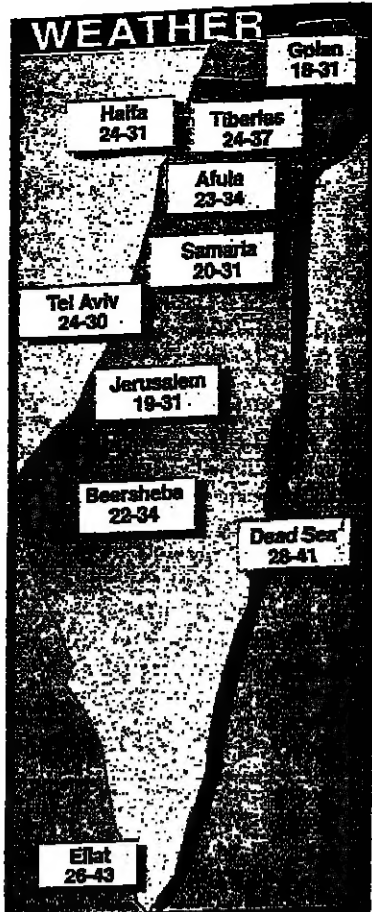
Former Likud minister Moshe Arens is forming an association for canceling the direct election law, consisting of former prime ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir, and former justice ministers Haim Zadok and Moshe Nissim.

Meanwhile, Labor's Knesset faction discussed the proposal of party leader Ehud Barak to change the law so that a majority of 65 MKs could remove the prime minister without dispersing the Knesset.

"We need to bring about a situation in which the government will not be threatened with toppling every Monday and Thursday," Barak said.

Peres, who always objected to the direct election law, said he never felt in two terms as prime minister, before the law passed, any lack of authority.

"Sometimes a prime minister needs more brains, but that's not a matter you can put in the constitution," he said.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	14	27	cloudy
Berlin	15	28	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	28	rain
Chicago	22	32	rain
Cairo	19	31	clear
Copenhagen	12	24	cloudy
Helsinki	12	24	clear
Hong Kong	22	32	clear
London	14	27	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	31	partly cloudy
Moscow	18	31	partly cloudy
New York	21	32	partly cloudy
Nice	19	31	clear
Rome	17	29	clear
Sydney	14	27	clear
Tokyo	19	31	clear
Vienna	15	28	clear
Zurich	11	24	partly cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the nine of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds, and jack of clubs. The results of the second draw were the queen of spades, seven of hearts, king of diamonds and king of clubs.

Basic Law: Social Rights bill defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

Following a parliamentary maneuver initiated by United Torah Judaism, the proposed Basic Law: Social Rights failed preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday by 50 to 59 votes. The vote was turned into a no-confidence motion two weeks ago as a delaying tactic because the coalition was not sure it had the necessary majority to block it. It was submitted by Histadrut head and Labor MK Amir Peretz, along with a similar bill by Anat Maor (Meretz).

National Religious Party MKs, who earlier yesterday said they would not take part in the no-confidence motions, turned out for the vote as part of the fight by the religious parties against all Basic Laws.

The bills would have anchored in law the right to organize and strike in the workplace, as well as ensure the provision of basic services such as health, education and welfare. The religious parties have automatically opposed Basic Laws, no matter what they pertain to, since the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation paved the way for the sale of pork.

The coalition was not sure until the last moment yesterday that it would be able to muster enough votes to defeat the bill after the opposition broke its agreement on pairing off absent MKs and recalled Eitan Cabel (Labor) from army reserve duty. Since it was still not known how the NRP would vote, both Science Minister Michael Eitan and Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom had to draw out their speeches until it became clear that the coalition had a majority.

In his answer to the motion, Shalom argued against raising the bill in this Knesset after the previous Labor government had "made sure it was put in the freezer. If you thought the bill was such a good idea why didn't you pass it in the last government?" he asked the opposition.

Hanegbi defends old moonlighting job

By LIAT COLLINS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud) yesterday defended having earned money as the director of a non-profit association fighting road accidents, Derech Tzela, while simultaneously promoting road-safety legislation he had drawn up with then Labor MK Jewish Agency head Avraham Burg.

Hanegbi was responding to a report in *Ha'aretz*, which questioned his having earned money from a group promoting the legislation he himself had drawn up. He apparently also was given use of a car by the association. At the time, Hanegbi also chaired the Knesset Economics Committee, which was discussing the legislation.

At a Knesset press conference yesterday, Hanegbi said the House rules at the time had not prevented an MK from earning money from outside sources. He said the amount was reported and published as required by law in the report on MKs income published in May. There it was listed as NIS 61,947, which was within the accepted limits for income for parliamentarians until a new ban on moonlighting came into effect.

Hanegbi said he would be happy to answer questions by the Ethics Committee. "It was accepted prac-

tice," Hanegbi said. "It was a norm. Nothing was hidden or secret. Even



Tzahi Hanegbi defends job (Brian Hendler)

Ha'aretz published announcements lobbying for the bill with my name on them.

"I think it is preferable to earn income from a matter which is entirely public related rather than work as a lawyer or accountant, for example," he said.

The Road Safety Law, which among other things would establish a national umbrella association to deal with all aspects of combating traffic accidents, is expected to come up for its final readings in the

plenum today.

Hanegbi said several MKs had established associations to promote laws they had drawn up, including Labor Whip Ra'anan Cohen, who worked on legislation for demobilized soldiers, Avraham Burg, who also directed an organization on road safety, and Rafi Elul (Labor), who headed an association dealing with housing and poverty while working on legislation in this field.

Hanegbi said the law on immunity prevents him from revealing who the donors to his organization were. He said he had submitted a bill which would require this type of organization to reveal its donors, but the previous Knesset did not promote the legislation.

Knesset State Control Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said work on the road safety law should have been part of Hanegbi's regular parliamentary work and he should not have earned money for it.

He wrote to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat to see if it is possible to reveal the identities of the donors and what their interests might have been, and asking her to examine whether Hanegbi could be considered guilty of accepting a bribe.

Both Cohen and Burg denied knowing of the existence of the organization Hanegbi established.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Barak takes the 'Bibi bypass route'

In the six weeks since his election as Labor Party chairman, Ehud Barak has been to London and Washington, to Cairo and Amman. His trips to Europe and the US earned criticism from Labor activists, who said that rather than playing statesman, he should concentrate on putting his party back together.

On the other hand, his trips to the Arab world - including last week's visit to Hosni Mubarak and yesterday's meeting in Amman with King Hussein - drew fire from the right, with charges that he is undermining Israel's bargaining position, and giving the Arabs a "Bibi bypass route."

More of the same criticism will inevitably follow his scheduled meeting later this week with Yasser Arafat.

The criticism from the right, however, has a somewhat hollow ring, considering that Netanyahu - during his stint as opposition leader - was a frequent visitor to Washington, speaking out against Labor policy. Moreover, he was also invited to see King Hussein, and - just two months before the election - was flown to Aqaba for a meeting with Crown Prince Hassan.

Moshe Arens, a former ambassador to the US, said that even



Ehud Barak on the fly (Israel Sini)

though "everybody does it," visits by opposition politicians to the world's leaders are wrong.

"Based on the norms in the democratic world, this type of practice is not acceptable," Arens said. "Just imagine if, during the Cold War era, when negotiations were being conducted under President Reagan, the leader of the Democratic party had gone to Moscow."

The problem, Arens said, is that "negotiators in the Arab world will think there are other options, and that they don't have to come to terms with the present government. It is not in the best interest of

the state," he said, "it undermines Israel's bargaining position."

But David Kinche, who served as director general of the Foreign Ministry from 1980 to 1987, sees things differently. "I don't think this undermines the bargaining position," he said. "The government has an embassy there" able to get its message across very well.

Kinche said the reason for Hussein's invitation to Barak was clear: "Hussein is showing his displeasure with Netanyahu." By the same token, Kinche said, when the king invited Netanyahu to Jordan, he was signaling his favor.

Shimon Shamir, who served as Israel's ambassador to Egypt from 1988 to 1990, and to Jordan from 1994 to 1996, said it has long been the Jordanian government's policy to "maintain a dialogue with a wide range of personalities on the Israeli political scene." It is no longer an issue, he said, because so many people do it. Invitations to opposition leaders are "normal procedure," Shamir said.

Shamir said that the meetings are seen by the Jordanians and Egyptians as a way to better understand Israeli positions, and an opportunity to discuss different views. Both Hussein and Mubarak, Shamir said, realize that they cannot "bring Labor back to power."

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MK Pines: What does PM have against Israeli girls?

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has obtained permission from the Employment Service to hire a foreign helper, although such permits are usually restricted to invalids requiring physical assistance 24 hours a day. Employment Service spokesman Avner Michaeli confirmed yesterday.

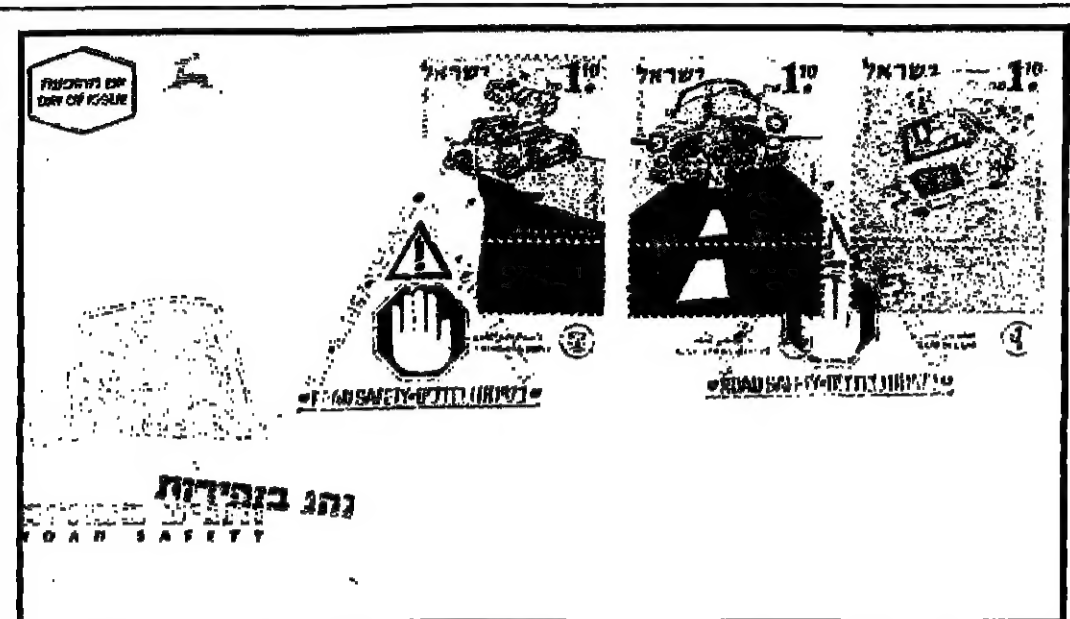
Michaeli could not say why the request was found justified.

MK Ofir Pines, who raised the issue at the no-confidence motion

yesterday, said that in view of rising unemployment, there is no justification for hiring aliens, with or without legal work permits.

"What does the prime minister have against Israeli girls? There are many thousands of unemployed young women who would be happy to look after his children," Pines said.

Pines added that terminally ill patients often die before getting a permit for a foreign 24-hour helper, due to the bureaucracy involved.



Stamp out bad driving

Three new postage stamps intended to discourage reckless driving have been issued by the Postal Authority's Philatelic Services. The colorful NIS 1.10 stamps, designed by 26-year-old Bezael graduate Guy Harlap, urge drivers to keep in their lane, keep their distance and not drink and drive.

(Text by Judy Siegel)

Fast of Tamuz starts the three weeks

Jerusalem Post Staff

The fast of the 17th of Tamuz, a day-long fast marking the beginning of the three-week period of semi-mourning that culminates on Tisha be'Av, is observed

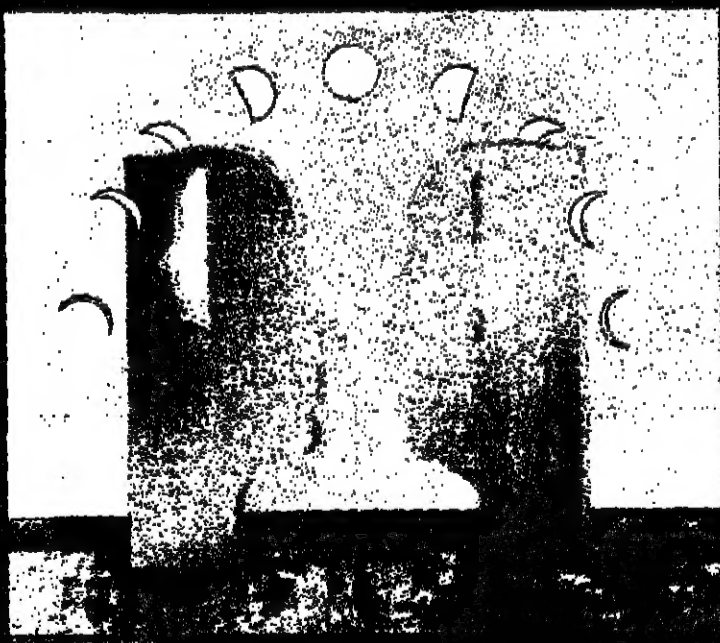
today.

The fast began at daybreak (3:57 a.m.), and will end at 8:07 this evening. During these three weeks, known as *bein hametzarim* (between the straits), marriages

are not held, some observant people do not listen to music, and Ashkenazim traditionally do not shave or cut their hair. Sephardim stop shaving and have no haircuts during the week before Tisha be'Av.

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مكازم العمل

Claridge buy into Koor

Ten tourists hurt in attack in Jaffa

Beirut building boom only a face lift

By NICHOLAS GOLDMANN

BEIRUT - In the heart of this city, a new building boom is under way. A new wave of construction is sweeping across the city, with new hotels, offices, and residential buildings rising from the ruins of the old. The boom is seen as a sign of recovery and a face lift for the city.

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See REPORT, Page 8

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